




Inside

Fight For What's Right!
CAN SCOTT HALL TAME
FLORIDA'S BEASTIE BOYS?

47727  June 1987
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Wrestling

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Nikita Koloff's Mission:

SADDLE THE HORSEMEN AND TRAMPLE LEX LUGER!

Roddy Piper's Retirement:

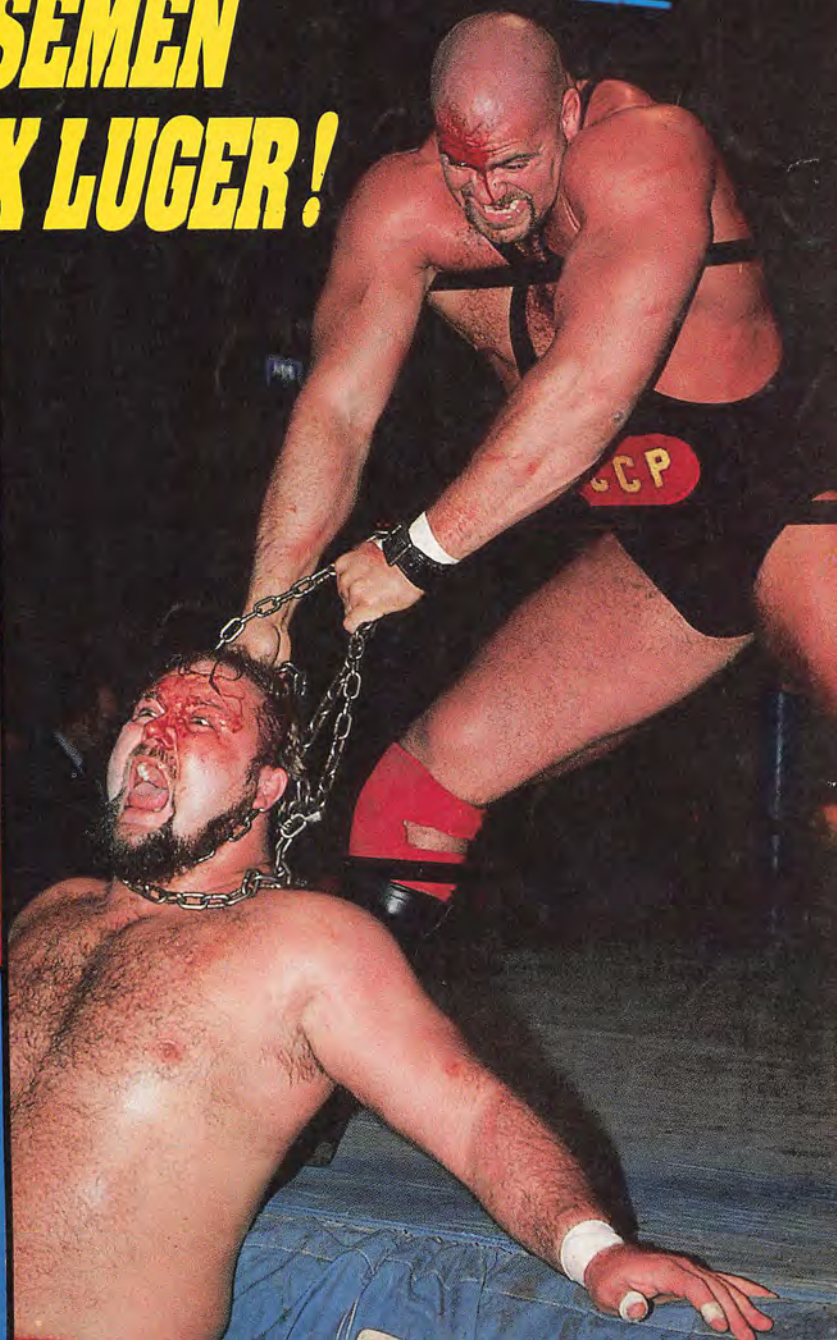
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LONG
WILL
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Tag Team Without Trust:
WHY CHRIS ADAMS AND
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OWN WORST ENEMIES!

BRUISER BRODY:
"NOBODY'S CRIPPLED
MORE PEOPLE THAN ME!"

ONE ON ONE:
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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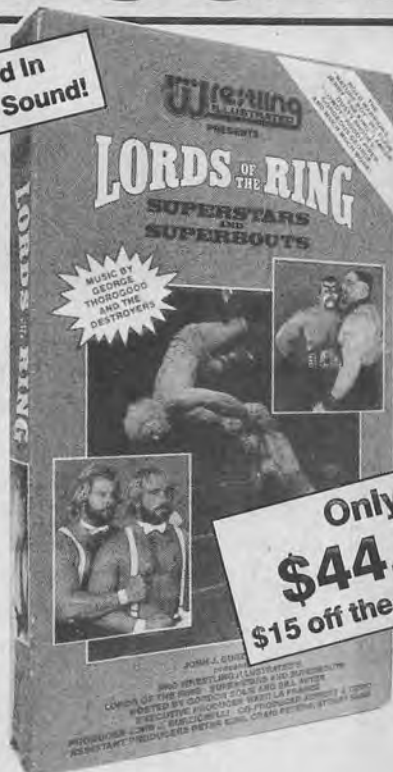
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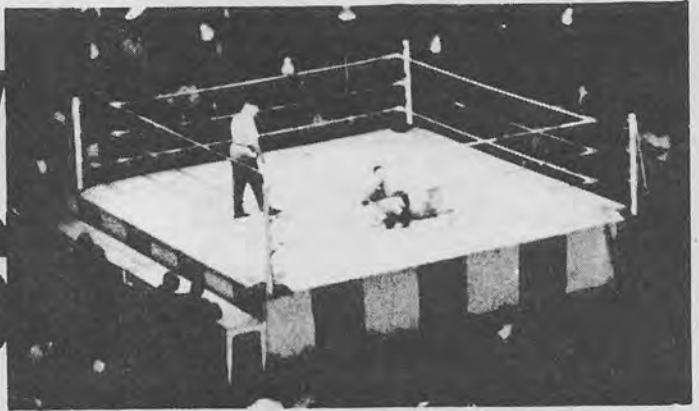
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SINCERELY YOURS

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Hulk Hogan can't believe what Andre the Giant is saying to him. With the help of Bobby Heenan, Andre got what he wanted: a title match against Hogan. Tony McLaughlin says it's about time, but Tracy Holmes is behind The Hulkster.

IT'S ABOUT TIME, ANDRE

Today I learned to respect Andre the Giant. On "Piper's Pit" today, Andre shocked wrestling when he showed up with his new manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. The look on Hulk Hogan's face was worth all the money in the world. Then when Andre ripped Hogan's shirt and necklace off, well, let's just say Hogan's nightmare has come true. His last friend turned on him. Andre is fed up with being overlooked and used by Hogan and Hulk can't handle a Giant gone mad. Heenan has proven once again that he is indeed "The Brain."

Heenan's tried for years to destroy Hogan, and now he's got the guy to do it. I laughed until my sides hurt when Hogan was on his knees, begging

Andre not to go with Heenan. Hulk knows his time is running out. Plus, Andre hasn't forgot what Hogan did to him a few years ago when Fred Blassie managed Hogan. The Giant has spoken and he wants revenge. I hope he gets it and gets rid of Hogan in the process.

TONY McLAUGHLIN
Lafayette, IN

DEAR HULK

An open letter to Hulk Hogan:

I've always respected Andre the Giant just as much as you, maybe even more. Andre has been wrestling for 15 years, so you can say I've followed his career from day one. Following his career as I have, I've always looked at him as a role model, just as you did,

until he stabbed you in the back. Seeing what happened on "Piper's Pit" hurt me just as much as it hurt you.

I knew this was coming when Bobby Heenan brought Andre back, but I overlooked it, hoping that it wasn't true. I was wrong.

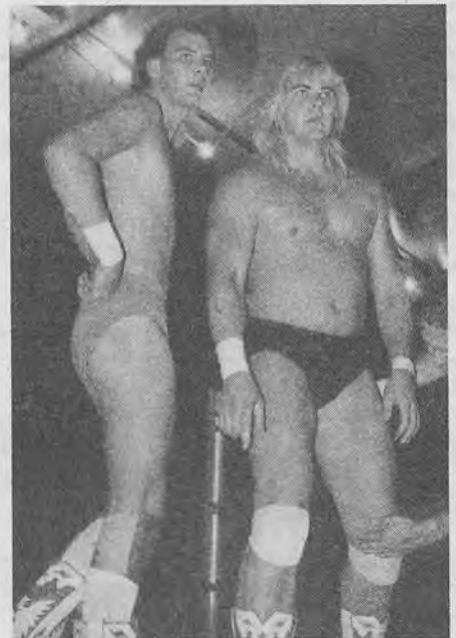
Whatever happens between you and Andre, I want you to know I'll be behind you more than ever.

TRACY HOLMES
Washington, PA

DON'T FORGET FLORIDA

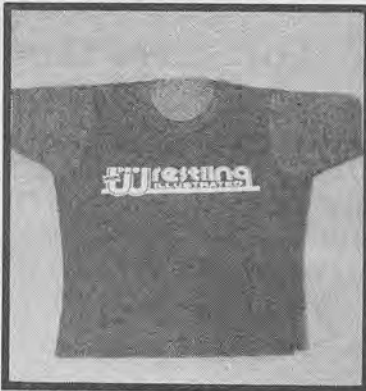
I read in the February issue of *Inside Wrestling* that Craig Peters didn't have any ideas for his column that month. Well, now he does.

(Continued on page 48)



Kendall and Barry Windham await the start of a match. In the opinion of Terri Bradshaw, there should be more stories on Kendall and other Florida wrestlers like Ron Simmons and The Falcon.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

It seems like only yesterday when baseball on TV was in the dark ages. More often than not, the announcers for the local teams were loyal employees of the ballclub who would rather have their tongues pulled out than criticize a member of the team they were paid to follow.

This changed when the networks began to cover baseball. Suddenly, the local announcer who rooted for his team sounded like an unprofessional fool, and the fans quickly caught on to when they were being lied to. Today, few baseball announcers openly root for their team. Fans who turn on a game expect criticism of the players from their announcers.

Unfortunately, wrestling remains entrenched in the dark ages. The announcers openly shill for the promoters. Worse, in some cases, the announcer *is* the promoter (Vince McMahon, Verne Gagne) or is a close relation (David Crockett).

But Vince and Verne and David don't bother me nearly as much as Gorilla Monsoon does. He lies so much, it's like listening to one of those Isuzu commercials. Gee, if only the WWF could print the truth on the screen while Monsoon is telling his blatant falsehoods!

During the WrestleMania III buildup, Monsoon, apparently under orders from the WWF, claimed that Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant had never wrestled each other. Oh no? What about the fans who witnessed them wrestle in Shea Stadium and Madison Square Garden in the early-'80s? And who do you suppose was the referee for the MSG match? Why, none other than Gorilla Monsoon! How can Monsoon lie like this? Can you ever believe another thing this man says?

I suppose Monsoon has to lie to keep his job with the WWF. Great. I'm sure he makes a very loyal employee. But he also makes a very lousy announcer. As for me, I refuse to listen to this lying jerk anymore.

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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Stu
Saks**

A YEAR AGO, Chris Adams lay in his bed in Stratford on Avon, England, and his mind tortured him. The pain of the hideous attack by his former best friend Gino Hernandez that left him blinded was so fresh that it could still be felt, even though the physical pain was no longer there. Patches rested on his eyes and the slim chance that the doctors gave him of being able to see again offered little comfort. His career was in all likelihood over, and with the news that Hernandez had died of a drug overdose he didn't even have revenge to look forward to.

He had been robbed of the positive outlook by which he had guided his life. He had no future, no hope, only pain.

"By comparison, three months in prison was like a trip to heaven," Chris Adams jokes. It's easy for Adams to laugh these days. For the first time in years, he feels that his life is finally moving in a positive direction. His eyesight is back almost to normal, his prison term is over, he has a share of the UWF tag team championship with Terry Taylor, the fans are behind him, and life has never looked rosier.

February 5 began the second phase of Chris Adams' life. That was the day he was released from Eden Detention Center, a one-acre facility 45 miles south of St. Angelo, Texas, where he had served 90 days after being convicted of misdemeanor assault.

On February 5, Adams wiped the slate clean and started fresh. It's like when you're bowling and you're doing so lousy after the sixth frame that you draw a thick line on the score sheet, forget about all your missed spares, and

(Continued on page 54)

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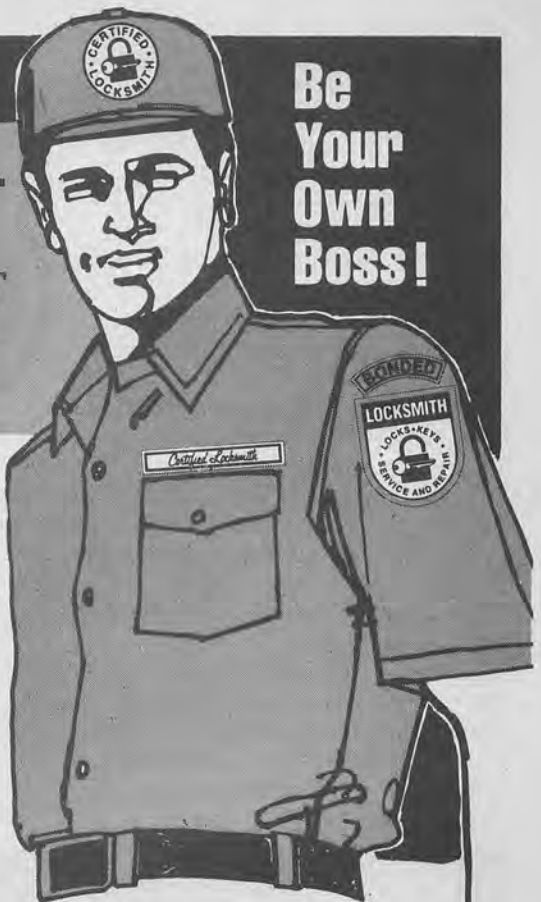
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THE JUNE 1987 edition of our sister publication *The Wrestler* contains a story entitled, "Wrestling Like It Oughta Be: The Flair-Windham War Is A Classic!" I agree with the headline—the feud *is* classic. These two formidable grapplers have been battling to one-hour draws all over the country. And 90-minute time-limit matches are reportedly in the offing.

It's not inconceivable to me that Windham and Flair could battle to a 90-minute draw.

Think about it: 90 minutes! That's an hour and a half. Time enough to watch three episodes of *The Cosby Show* (which, as good as it is, might show how quickly 90 minutes can pass), or of *Pee Wee's Playhouse* (which, in my opinion, would vividly demonstrate how interminably long 90 minutes might be).

Some entire wrestling cards don't last too much longer than 90 minutes!

I decided to speak with both Flair and Windham about the prospect of wrestling 90 minute matches. I wanted to know what goes through an athlete's mind when he is faced with the distinct possibility of having to defend himself against a determined attacker for an hour and a half without rest.



Windham and Flair exert tremendous amounts of energy

"There's a lot more going on in a match than just trying to pin a man," said Flair, who's probably been in more one-hour draws than any other active wrestler. "The first 15 minutes or so is a battle to establish pacing. You know, like a pair of marathon runners going one on one; whoever establishes the pace of the race is going to have an advantage.

"Though, if a game plan involves allowing one's opponent to set the pace," Flair continues, "and then making a move when that opponent is at his weakest, there's a disadvantage in setting the pace early on. In that event, it becomes a situation where you might want to second-guess your opponent. If you think he wants to draw you into doing one thing, try and do the other. But that becomes risky as well, and you're faced with the prospect of a double-cross, and finding yourself with your shoulders on the canvas."

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Flair was in a surprisingly analytical mood when I spoke with him, and he welcomed the opportunity to discuss the extension of a 60-minute time-limit into a 90-minute war, particularly with Windham.

"Look, wrestling is a sport where all kinds of athletes can make it on many kinds of advantages," Flair said. "A Nikita Koloff or a Road Warrior makes it on pure power. A Tim Horner or even a Brad Armstrong looks to get by on pure wrestling ability. Me? Well . . ."

Flair injects an egomaniacal chuckle into his monologue.

"Me, I'm the greatest wrestler who ever lived. I utilize strength, science, and stamina, all balanced into the perfect professional wrestling package, the greatest professional wrestler of the 20th century. In a 90-minute bout, my stamina will prevail. I'll go two hours if necessary. Whatever it takes, I can do it, because I am the number one man in the sport, the NWA World heavyweight champion. The gold proves it, brother, and I'm not about to slack off when the going gets tough."

Windham, demonstrating that he is willing to match the stakes when the ante is upped, also has no qualms about a 90-minute match.

"That's just 30 more minutes in which to pin Flair's shoulders," Windham said. "Hey—I've been in matches where all I really needed was 30 seconds to get the win, how do you think I'll do when 30 minutes is tacked on to the bout?"

"In a match that long, you've really got to know your own body," Windham continued. "When I know I'm going to be looking at a 60-minute or even a 90-minute bout a few days down the line, I alter my training habits just a bit. I make sure I spend a little more time on cardiovascular training, on stamina maintenance, and on breathing exercises.

"You know, *there's* a great example of a detail that a lot of wrestling fans might not even consider," Windham explained, "and that's breathing. Go out and jog around the block and see how you're breathing when you come back. Now jog for a half hour. Or an hour. See, controlling one's own breathing, knowing how one's body is going to react under a stressful situation, and knowing how to control those reactions, that's all a part of wrestling. That's all what you might call the unsung training a wrestler has to endure.

"Not that I'm complaining," Windham says with a laugh, "but you asked me about a 90-minute bout with Flair, and that's the deal here. Wrestling skills and maneuvers and enthusiasm—that's all a given. We've made it to the top, and we're at war for the gold.

"But when you stretch a battle out and give the combatants a full 90 minutes to eliminate each other, it's the subtle elements like breathing, stamina, and ability to listen to the signals that one's own body is sending out that can make all the difference between victory and defeat.

"Either way, win or lose" Windham says, "a 90-minute match is a hell of a workout. I wouldn't want to face those kinds of bouts too often. But for Flair's gold . . ."

Windham simply smiles. There's no need to finish the sentence. We all know what he means.

Particularly Ric Flair. □

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NAMES MAKI

The war continues between **Barry Windham** and **Ric Flair** at arenas throughout the World Championship area, but none of the matches have reached a clear-cut decision—until February 21 at the Philadelphia Civic Center. That's when Flair pinned Windham in 20 minutes to retain his NWA World heavyweight championship.

The match, however, was not without controversy. "I saw what happened there, and Ric Flair, he used that rope for leverage," said **Dusty Rhodes**. "B.W., he would've won that match fair and square, but he got cheated. Well, Barry Windham's the kind of man who doesn't take nothing he don't deserve, but Ric Flair, he's not the same way."

The Flair-Windham battles have been absolute classics thus far, even outshining the recent Flair-**Nikita Kholoff** matches. Many of these bouts have ended with **Arn Anderson**, **Ole Anderson**, **Tully Blanchard**, and **J.J. Dillon** interfering on Flair's behalf. Many of their contests have gone



WINDHAM VS. FLAIR

to the 60-minute time limit. And now, as reported in the current issue of *The Wrestler*, a 90-minute time limit will be imposed on some of their matches. Certainly, this war has only just begun.

Speaking of Barry Windham, he and his partner, **Ronnie Garvin**, no longer have the U.S. tag team belts. But that's not to say they are no longer champions. It's just that **The Midnight Express** literally stole the two U.S. belts. "And we ain't gonna give 'em back!" claims Midnigher **Bobby Eaton**. "Since we can't get a fair



THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

match with Windham and old man Garvin, we have decided to take custody of what we believe rightfully belongs to us." The NWA is considering legal action against the Midnights.

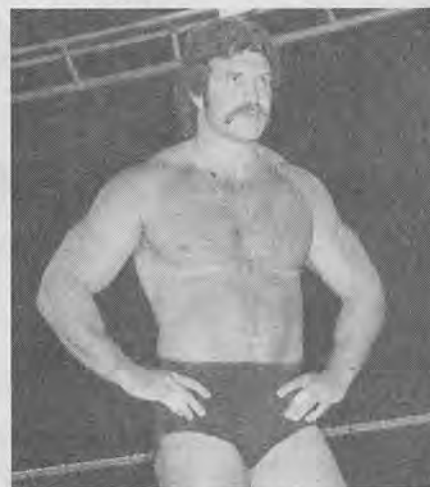
Rumors persist that **Hulk Hogan** will soon leave the WWF and move to Hollywood. The Hulkster has appeared in some TV shows before, and will star in a soon-to-be-released motion picture. According to Hollywood insider

Joe Bua (who is a former *Inside Wrestling* associate editor), "Hogan has star quality. He could be the next Sly Stallone." We'll reserve judgment on Hogan's acting ability for the time being.

Bad News Allen lost his Southern title to **Kevin Sullivan** in Sarasota, Florida, but good news for Bad News fans: He still owns the Florida and Bahamas titles. Sullivan and **Sir Oliver Humperdink** have plans for Allen and newcomer **Scott Hall**.

"Allen and Hall will burn until their bodies have been reduced to mere ashes," warned Sullivan. "**Paul E. Dangerously** and **Tombstone** have worked a diabolical plan to rid Florida of Scott Hall and I will personally do away with Allen. If it is not possible to do it on our own, then Sir Oliver will raise the bounty and we will be rid of these cretins forever."

Hall has apparently gone from one bad situation to another. In the AWA, he got too involved in a feud with **Col. DeBeers** and lost track of the direc-



SCOTT HALL

tion of his career. Now, in Florida, Hall will have little chance to concentrate on winning a championship if he gets involved in a war with Hall and Humperdink. We'll keep on top of the

situation.

Insiders say that the retirement of **Roddy Piper** might not be as permanent as we've been led to believe. I'll try to have more on that in the coming months ... **Lex Luger** is being brought along slowly by adviser **J.J. Dillon** before getting sent after the big men. At the Philadelphia card mentioned earlier, Luger threw **Eddie Roberts** into the ropes and the bottom rope snapped off ... **Larry Zbyszko** is calling **Ray Stevens** and **Nick Bockwinkel** "The Over The Hill



SAITO, ZBYSZKO, & NINJA

Gang." Zbyszko, **Super Ninja**, and **Mr. Saito** have been feuding with Stevens, Bockwinkel, and **Greg Gagne** ... **King Kong Bundy** has lost more than 50 pounds, and is showing signs of adding speed to his vast power.

Bam Bam Bigelow's return to Memphis has been met with some skepticism in various corners. Bigelow, a runner-up for 1986 Rookie of the Year, is the former Mid-Southern champion and World Class TV champ. But the impressiveness of his rookie campaign was overshadowed by his inability to stay in one area for a long period of time. In fact, he and manag-

er **Larry Sharpe** hadn't been seen for months until Bigelow suddenly reappeared in Memphis.

The entire situation is made even stranger by Bigelow's decision to team with former Mid-Southern champ **Jerry Lawler**, who had originally run Bam Bam out of town. Lawler has been feuding with **Tommy Rich** and Mid-Southern champion **Austin Idol**, and recently parted ways with Nick Bockwinkel. But is Bigelow the right man for Lawler? Can he be trusted?

The Fantastics have apparently decided not to split up. **Tommy Rogers** and **Bobby Fulton** are in the World Class area and hot on the trail of the tag team belts held by **Brian Adias** and **Al Madril**.

"We don't like to brag, but the truth is that me and Bobby have been a success wherever we've gone," said Rogers. "We've always won tag team belts and we've always been popular. We haven't changed. Bobby and I still draw a lot of our energy from the fans and that's what's made us a success. That and hard work."

From Stampede Wrestling public relations director Stuart Kemp comes the unusual story of how **Makian Singh** regained the North American title from **Owen Hart**. "Hart won the title from Singh in a cage match back in Medicine Hat," reports Kemp. "Then **Gama Singh**, Makian's manager, ran into the ring and threw fire at Owen, badly burning his face. A few weeks later, the commission told Hart that he would have to defend his title against Makian. Makian cut him up so badly, referee **Jergen Herman** had to stop the match. Makian was awarded the title."

Iceman Parsons has made a sudden shift from fan favorite to being one of the most hated men in the UWF. He's been teaming with **Sting** and



ICEMAN PARSONS

coming to the ring with **Eddie Gilbert** and **Missy Hyatt** ... The **Col. DeBeers-Jimmy Snuka** feud continues. They are currently engaged in a series of strap matches ... **Jack Hart** and **Kareem Muhammad** combined to break **Kendall Windham's** right ankle ... **Lance Von Erich**, **Steve Simpson**, **David Manning**, and **Mark Lowrance** recently appeared in a celebrity pro-am bowling event in Dallas. A total of \$1,445 was raised for Scottish Rite Hospital.

Some sad news to report. Atlanta promoter **Ann Gunkel** died of cancer on February 17. Mrs. Gunkel was 50. Gunkel, president of Gunkel Sports, entered the business in 1972 after her husband, **Ray Gunkel**, died of a heart attack following a match. Mrs. Gunkel was a former fashion model and manager of the Heart of Atlanta Hotel.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □



THE Wrestler

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November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Corrette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Corrette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

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NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

THE FACT THAT the Von Erichs are infinitely more interesting outside the wrestling ring than in the ring should not be lost on any observer of the sport. And in light of recent events, perhaps the World Class area's weekly television shows should have been broadcast from the courtroom.

It would have made a great seven-part miniseries.

Let's begin by pointing out that Mike Von Erich, he of the famed first family of wrestling, was found innocent of misdemeanor assault charges in his trial down in Denton, Texas, in February. It should also be pointed out that the jury's verdict was unanimous and took only a few hours to reach. According to the six-person jury, Mike acted in self-defense when he knocked out emergency room physician Tim Shepard at Lewisville Memorial Hospital.

The following should also be of some comfort to the many fans out there who worship the Von Erichs, and the countless other wrestling fans who are merely concerned about the image of the sport: "They [the Von Erichs] were the nicest people I've ever met," said Molly Fennell, a reporter who covered the trial for the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*. "I expected to dislike them. I thought they'd put up this phony front, but from what I could tell, they were genuinely nice people."

Certainly, this comes as no surprise



Mike Von Erich shakes hands with fans in Fort Worth, Texas. While Mike was cleared of misdemeanor assault charges, the negative publicity that the trial brought cannot help his career. Professional athletes must work hard to protect their images.

to the majority of wrestling fans, because the Von Erichs have always been known as nice people. Not a rule-breaker among them. The Von Erichs are loved because they've never done anything to besmirch the honor of the Lone Star State.

During the course of this trial, however, the Von Erichs' squeaky-clean reputation was surely at stake. Mike Von Erich was in danger of being grouped in that segment of society called criminals. He faced a maximum penalty of a \$2,000 fine and a year in prison and, although the chances that he would have been put in jail were slim, Mike's image would have been irreversibly damaged. Brian Adias merely attacked another wrestler. Mike attacked a doctor.

The entire spectacle of Mike Von Erich on trial drew standing-room-only crowds to Denton County Court 2, proving beyond any doubt that the

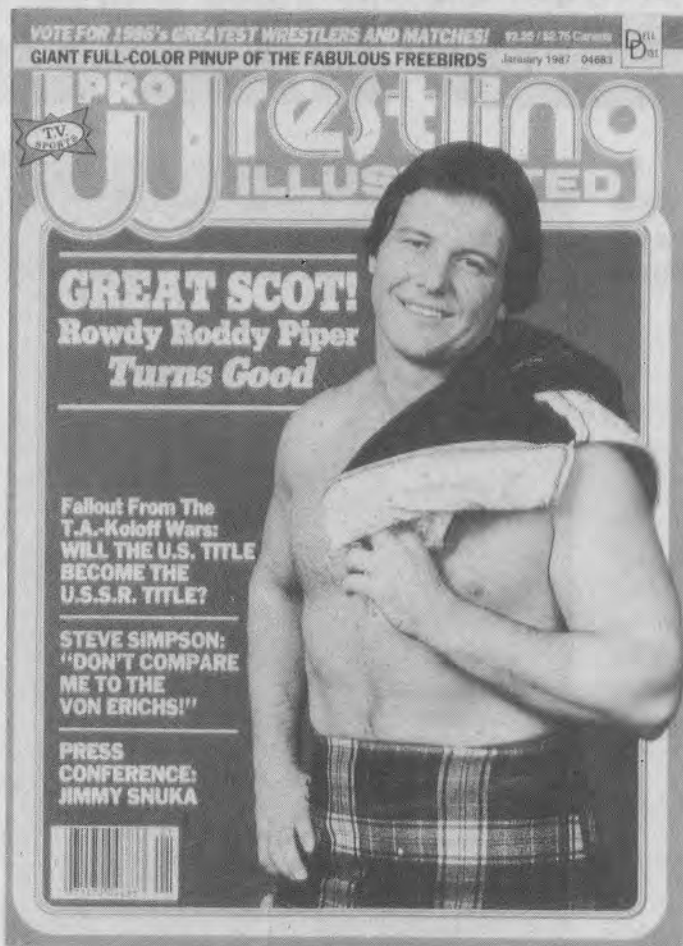
World Class area can still pack 'em in when the attraction is right. Naturally, the Von Erich family hoped that the trial would come and go with little outside attention. But all three Dallas-Fort Worth area newspapers covered the trial on a daily basis and a few television stations provided spot coverage. "We really didn't want to make a big deal of this," Doris Von Erich, Mike's mother, told the *Star-Telegram*. "This has been just devastating to us."

As is turned out, the Von Erichs scored a resounding victory. In fact, in the final analysis, it would appear that the Von Erich image came out the big winner in the whole affair.

It all started back in May 1985, just after Mike had dislocated his shoulder. That injury eventually led to surgery, which led to Mike's heroic and nearly fatal battle with toxic shock syndrome. That May, however, Mike was making

(Continued on page 58)

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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

SEEING DOUBLE

HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH a lead this month. Well, how about ...

1973: Watergate ... presidential corruption ... The New York Mets win the pennant ... Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel reign as World tag team champions.

1986: Iran Arms scandal ... presidential corruption ... The New York Mets win the pennant ... Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel are training together, mmmmm.

No, wrestling fans. History may be cyclical, Republicans genetically corrupt, the Mets occasionally lucky, but no way will Bockwinkel and Stevens become tag team champions again.

Or,

Burns and Allen ... Abbott and Costello ... Laurel and Hardy ... *Stevens and Bockwinkel*. Similarities abound. If Gracie Allen were alive, she'd be three years younger than Ray Stevens—if Lou Costello were alive he'd be 10 pounds lighter than Ray Stevens. If Laurel and Hardy were alive, they'd be out of work since the funniest duo today is Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel.

It's bad enough the AWA can't find a decent challenger for the fossilized likes of Bockwinkel. But



Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel are back together again and trying to prove they're not too old to be an effective team. They were AWA World tag team champions in the 1970s, but can they regain their championship form? Eddie Ellner says no.

to have Stevens—compared to whom Verne Gagne is a pimply teenager—return as Bockwinkel's tag team partner is like a bad spinoff of *The Golden Girls*. The solution is obvious. Like the PGA and USTA has done with great success, turn the AWA into the masters' circuit of professional

wrestling. Requirements? Anyone over 40 and over 40 pounds overweight ...

... Speaking of the Fat and the Repulsive, Dusty Rhodes enlists his old partner, Dick Murdoch, in an attempt to neutralize the Soviet triad of Ivan Koloff, Vladimir (Continued on page 52)

CODENAME:

HARD-HITTING, NON-STOP
MARTIAL ARTS DRAMA
SO REAL...YOU'D
SWEAR IT WAS A MOVIE!

STEVE
CHAMPION
IS AN
AMERICAN
NINJA...

Ninja



HIS
MISSION:
PENETRATE
A SECRET
ORGANIZA-
TION BENT
ON THE DESTRUC-
TION OF
C.I.A. CHIEF
JOHN
REARDON.
ONLY ONE
PROBLEM...
THE C.I.A.
HAS SPLIT
INTO TWO
ORGANIZATIONS, WITH
ONE SIDE TRYING TO
WIPE OUT THE OTHER!

...AND WHEN THE
BODIES START FLYING,
STEVE CHAMPION
CAN'T TELL THE GOOD
GUYS FROM
THE BAD GUYS!

"GREAT STORY AND
ART! DON'T PASS
THIS ONE UP!"
— U.S. COMICS
REVIEW

SOMETIMES THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB
IS A WOMAN.

IRON MAIDENS

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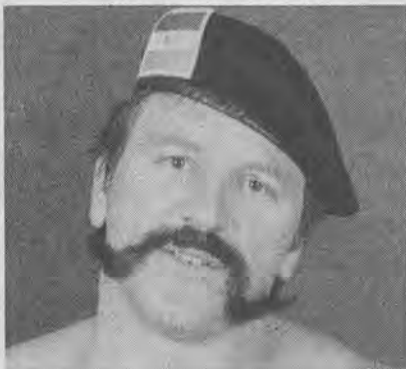
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BLOOMINGTON, MN By James McIlwane



JIMMY SNUKA
vs.
COL. DeBEERS



DeBeers challenged Snuka to a diamond miner's glove match, in which a diamond-studded glove is put on top of a 12-foot pole, available to either wrestler who could get it. Snuka controlled the match for about 10 minutes and finally got the glove. Boris Zukhov tried to interfere, but Snuka knocked him out with the glove. Meanwhile, DeBeers took a second glove out of his pants, and when Snuka turned around, DeBeers slugged him and made the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: The Midnight Rockers pinned Buddy Rose & Doug Somers for the AWA World tag team title ... Mr. Saito & Larry Zbyszko pinned Nick Bockwinkel & Greg Gagne ... Buck Zumhofe pinned Brian Knobbs ... Kevin Kelly pinned Earthquake Ferris ... Boris Zukhov pinned Jerry Sagonovich ... Super Ninja pinned Steve O.

LOS ANGELES, CA By Robert Coffey



HULK HOGAN
vs.
KAMALA



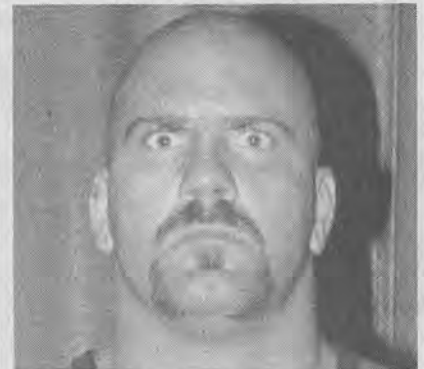
Hogan attempted to knock Kamala off his feet at the very beginning of the match, utilizing running shoulderblocks. This proved to be a mistake, as Kamala caught Hogan with a series of karate chops and headbutts as he charged in. Kamala then opened a huge cut over Hogan's left eye. As the crowd began chanting Hogan's name, The Hulkster came back with a series of karate chops, punches, and a devastating bodyslam. Just as Hogan prepared to use his legdrop to end the match, Kim Chee entered the ring and threw the referee out, causing Kamala's disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: The Can-Am Connection defeated Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake ... Jake Roberts and Paul Orndorff wrestled to a draw ... Tito Santana and Butch Reed also went to a draw.

RICHMOND, VA By Matt Bailey



RIC FLAIR
vs.
NIKITA KOLOFF



Flair controlled the early stages of this NWA World title bout with powerful chops to Nikita's throat. Nikita gained control but started making costly errors that allowed Flair to regain the momentum. The champion applied the figure-four leglock, but Nikita reversed it. Seconds after Flair broke the hold, Nikita hit him with the Russian sickle. Flair kicked out of the pin attempt, then threw Nikita over the top rope and was disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Tully Blanchard drew with Dusty Rhodes ... The Road Warriors beat Rick Rude & Manny Fernandez by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express & Barry Windham defeated The Midnight Express & Big Bubba ... Brad Armstrong beat Jimmy Garvin ... Ivan Koloff & Vladimir Petrov defeated Dick Murdoch & Baron Von Raschke.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



JACKSON, MS By Greg Purnell



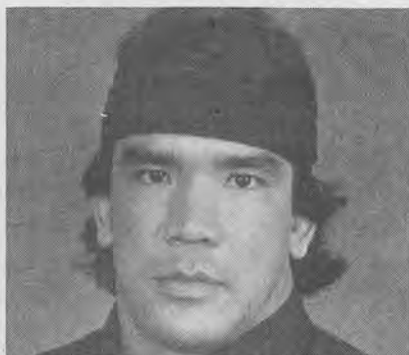
**ONE MAN GANG
vs.
HACKSAW DUGGAN**



One Man Gang put his UWF title on the line against Duggan in a no-DQ, loser-leave-town chain match. When the match started, Duggan took control by punching Gang. He then took Gang outside the ring and slammed him into a steel post. Both men returned to the ring and started hitting each other with the chain. Finally, Gang got Duggan on the mat, wrapped the chain around himself, 747'd Duggan, and dragged him to all four corners for the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Savannah Jack defeated Sting ... Jack Victory beat Terry Taylor ... Iceman Parsons pinned Mike George ... Terry Taylor & Iceman Parsons defeated Mike George & Jack Victory ... Eddie Gilbert pinned Ken Massey ... Gary Young beat Art Crews.

DETROIT, MI By Tracy Woodard



**RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
RANDY SAVAGE**



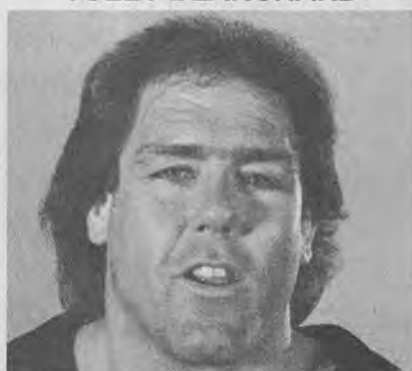
Steamboat came to the ring with vengeance in his eyes and stunned "Macho Man" Savage early with chops to the throat and head. Savage turned the tables as he threw Rick into the steel railing outside the ring. When Rick got back into the ring, he started hitting Savage with all he had. As they were fighting, the referee got knocked out. Rick went out of the ring, brought in a steel chair, and hit Savage in the head. The ref woke up, saw Rick with the chair, and disqualified him.

OTHER BOUTS: Roddy Piper & Davey Boy Smith pinned The Hart Foundation ... Blackjack Mulligan pinned Nikolai Volkoff ... Hercules Hernandez pinned Koko B. Ware ... The Honky Tonk Man beat George Steele by disqualification ... Mike Rotundo beat Iron Mike Sharpe.

HUNTINGTON, WV By Joey Riggio



**DUSTY RHODES
vs.
TULLY BLANCHARD**



This match for Blanchard's NWA TV title started off with Dusty delivering a series of elbows to Tully's head. Tully came back with a series of cheap shots that weakened The American Dream. Then Tully hit Dusty over the head with J.J. Dillon's shoe. Dusty came back with a series of elbow-smashes to Tully's leg, then slapped on the figure-four leglock. Dillon scratched Dusty's eyes to break the hold. Dusty then punched Dillon and threw the referee over the top rope, causing his disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors defeated The Midnight Express ... Nikita Koloff pinned Jimmy Garvin ... Brad Armstrong defeated Thunderfoot I ... Jimmy Valiant pinned Bill Dundee ... Barry Windham destroyed Shaska Whatley.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

FORT WORTH, TX: People who really love this great game of ours know that the most wonderful thing about it is that you never know what's going to happen. I've been covering this beat for a long time, much longer than anybody I know, and every time I think I've seen it all, something else happens that sends me running for my notebook. Truthfully, I should have known that something strange would have to happen in the Universal Wrestling Federation's tag team tournament, but it seemed like a harmless enough evening of wrestling. At the start of the night, there would be eight tag teams going after the belts. At the end of the night, there would be

one champion. Simple, except I don't think anybody counted on Chris Adams and Terry Taylor winning the belts, especially since they weren't even entered together. Now, I've seen thousands of matches, but I haven't seen every match, so I don't know if this has ever happened before. Adams was entered with Iceman Parsons, Taylor with young Sam Houston, and somewhere along the way, things got totally out of hand. Actually, I thought the outcome was strangely just, if only because the Adams-Taylor team is much better than the Adams-Parsons or Taylor-Houston teams. The UWF won out in the end because two of its best wrestlers took the belts. The story is made even better when you figure that Adams just recently got out of the slammer. The man was in great shape, perhaps the best of his life, so I guess prison life had its positive effects on Adams. As for Taylor, maybe things are finally starting to go right for him after a couple of absolutely dreadful months. Let me say this: Adams and Taylor make good copy.

NEW YORK, NY: Hacksaw Duggan in McMahonland. Somehow, the pairing of Duggan and the WWF just doesn't fit. Here's a man who represents everything the WWF doesn't. Hacksaw is a no-nonsense guy who means business in the ring. The man is rough, a real brawler, and what he lacks in charisma he makes up for in honesty and a simple down-home attitude. He's a tough guy and he was right at home in the UWF, the world's toughest federation. He *was* the UWF. They'll miss him sorely. Unfortunately, the way things are these days, stagnation leads to failure. Stay in one place for too long and you'll get nowhere. There are some exceptions—the Flairs, Hogans, Rhodes—but for the most part, you have to keep moving. But why did Duggan pick the WWF? Well, there are a number of reasons. Certainly the money had plenty to do



CHRIS ADAMS VS. STING

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

with it, and don't forget that Duggan was brought up in Glens Falls, New York, right in the heart of McMahon territory. So Hacksaw went home, but now he's found himself in a circus federation in which nonsense is the norm. Duggan is a wrestler and the WWF is an aberration of the sport. Maybe they'll give him an animal or let him do some ridiculous television segment. But there's nobody like him in the WWF—nobody—and he simply won't be able to blend in the way Savage and Roberts and Hogan did. Hacksaw Duggan doesn't blend in. He's his own man and he's in the wrong place. Home isn't Glens Falls anymore, Hacksaw. Home is the UWF.

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Not really Philadelphia, though. Passing through on an Amtrak Metroliner on the way to Florida. I just finished reading John Madden's book and he talks all about the pleasures of train travel. Well, I gave up the rails a long time ago when planes became fashionable, but I had a few days between stops so I figured I'd hop on a train. Anyway, I found my way to the bar car and I've spent most of the last few hours here and I guess I'll spend the next 24 here, too. The point is that the bartender switched on the television set, and between all the snow and interference, I luckily managed to catch this wrestling segment on a cheap gossip show called *Entertainment Tonight*. The reporter was sent down to a town in Southern New Jersey to do a piece on Larry Sharpe's Monster Factory, a training ground for aspiring wrestlers. The segment was highlighted by the appearance of Bam Bam Bigelow, who has all but disappeared from wrestling recently. Unfortunately, the TV went on the blink about three-quarters of the way through and I missed the ending. But it was good to see wrestling get some coverage on a national scale. And even better, the hardcore fan got a look inside one of those training facilities they've heard so much about.

TAMPA, FL: Lex Luger and Barry Windham are gone. Scott Hall and Kevin Sullivan are in. Bad News Allen holds the Southern, Florida, and Bahamas belts. The Fabulous Ones are also gone. Jack

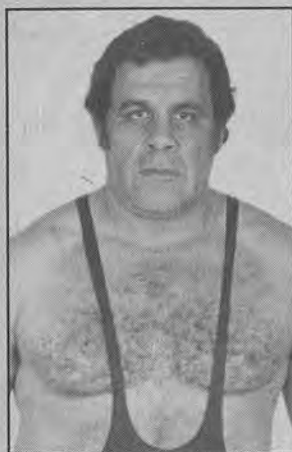


LEX LUGER VS. BAD NEWS ALLEN

Hart and Kareem Muhammad conspired to break Kendall Windham's right ankle. Sullivan and Sir Oliver Humperdink joined forces and came up with a man named "Tombstone." Chris Champion and Sean Royal are the Florida tag team champs. Sometimes a long trip turns out to be a waste of time. In this instance, it was worth every second. I thought this place would fall apart once Luger and Windham, the state's two biggest draws, left for the World Championship area. Instead, the other guys got the chance to show their stuff and have generated tons of excitement. Just think about this: Florida lost Luger, Barry Windham, and The Fabulous Ones, the core of the entire operation. What would happen if the WWF lost Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, and The Can-Am Connection? I'm impressed by the Florida area's perseverance, especially with World Championship Wrestling and WWF running shows at an increased rate down here. The smaller promotions will always live, mostly because they're the base of the entire sport. Without them, the big guys will come tumbling down. I guarantee it. Wrestling has a certain structure. It can't be toyed with. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

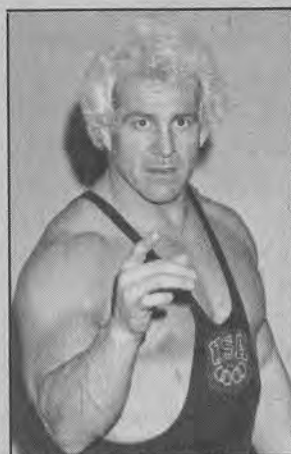
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



ANGELO MOSCA SR.

The former WWF television announcer is now semiretired and working as a promoter in Canada for Jim Crockett Promotions. Mosca has recently promoted a number of cards in the Toronto area and was the driving

force behind MoscaMania II in Hamilton. A member of the Canadian Football League's Hall of Fame, Mosca is still very popular in Canada and says he would welcome the opportunity to wrestle NWA World champion Ric Flair on his home turf.



KEN PATERA

Patera, a four-time national weightlifting champion, U.S. Olympic representative, and holder of the U.S. record for the super heavyweight clean and jerk, is a former WWF Intercontinental and AWA World tag team champion. A vio-

lent encounter with Wisconsin police back in 1984, however, resulted in a two-year jail sentence for both Patera and Mr. Saito. Patera is out of prison now and preparing himself for a comeback with the WWF in either March or April.



CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

The four-time WWF World tag team champion was one of the most popular men in wrestling before gradually decreasing his ring activity and concentrating more on the business end of the sport. Strongbow is

currently working for the WWF as a road manager. His duties include acting as a front man for WWF cards and making sure that everything is in tip-top shape at the various arenas. Fans will never forget Strongbow's famed sleeperhold and wardance.



BOB ROOP

The adviser of former Southern champion Lex Luger has left the sport and returned to college, where he is continuing his studies in business administration. "Managing Luger was the tip of the iceberg," says Roop, who would not

comment on Luger's recent career moves. "I plan to go into business in the very near future, hopefully in a management position." Ironically, Roop left wrestling at the time former archrival Kevin Sullivan arrived in the Florida area.

INSIDE WRESTLING

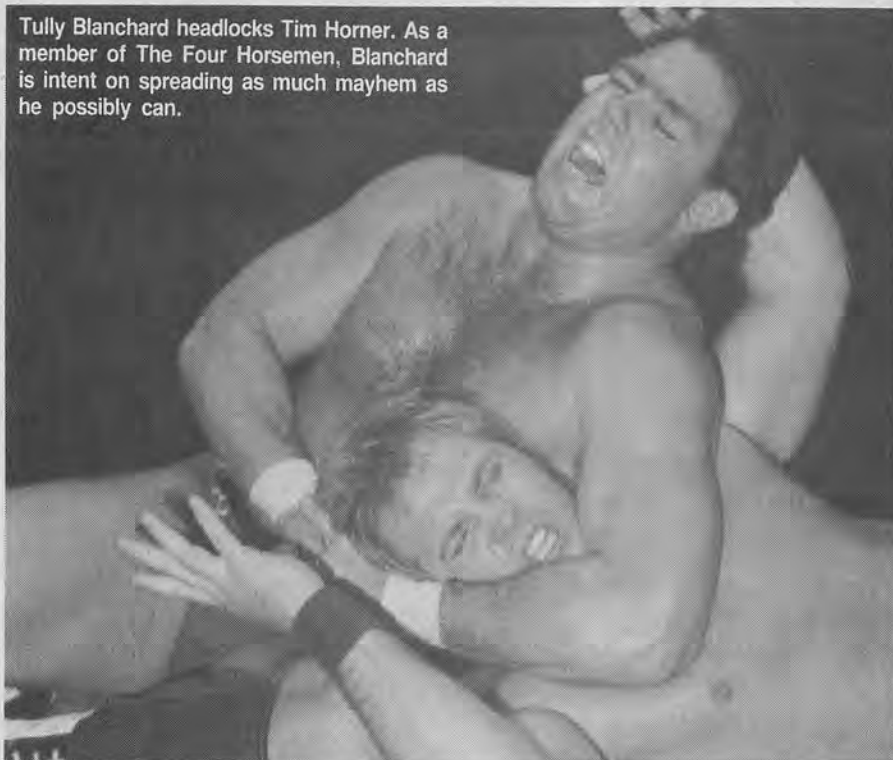
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CAPSULE PROFILE

THE 235-POUND San Antonio, Texas, native is the son of former pro wrestler Joe Blanchard (*"Daddy liked to rough it up, just like me, and he taught me everything I know"*) ... Played quarterback at West Texas State University and ranks second in school history behind Mercury Morris in total offense (*"I'm the best at anything I do. Nobody's ever been able to get in the way of Tully Blanchard"*) ... Has always been considered one of the most brutal, ruthless individuals in the sport (*"Wrestling isn't for the squeamish and I have no mercy for anybody who steps into that ring"*) ... Held the Southwest tag team championship with the late Gino Hernandez (*"Gino was a great wrestler because he was just like me. Gino didn't care who he hurt, but out of the ring he was a fun loving guy, just like myself"*) ... Is best known for his slingshot suplex (*"It's an economical finishing move. It causes the greatest amount of pain to my opponents with the least risk of injury to myself"*) ... Upon his arrival in the World Championship area, Blanchard lured Baby Doll from Gino Hernandez and made her his "Perfect 10" (*"It was nothing against Gino, but at the time I wanted Baby Doll and I was willing to do anything to get her. That was my mistake"*) ... Won his first NWA TV title in 1984 by defeating Mark Youngblood, but lost

TULLY BLANCHARD

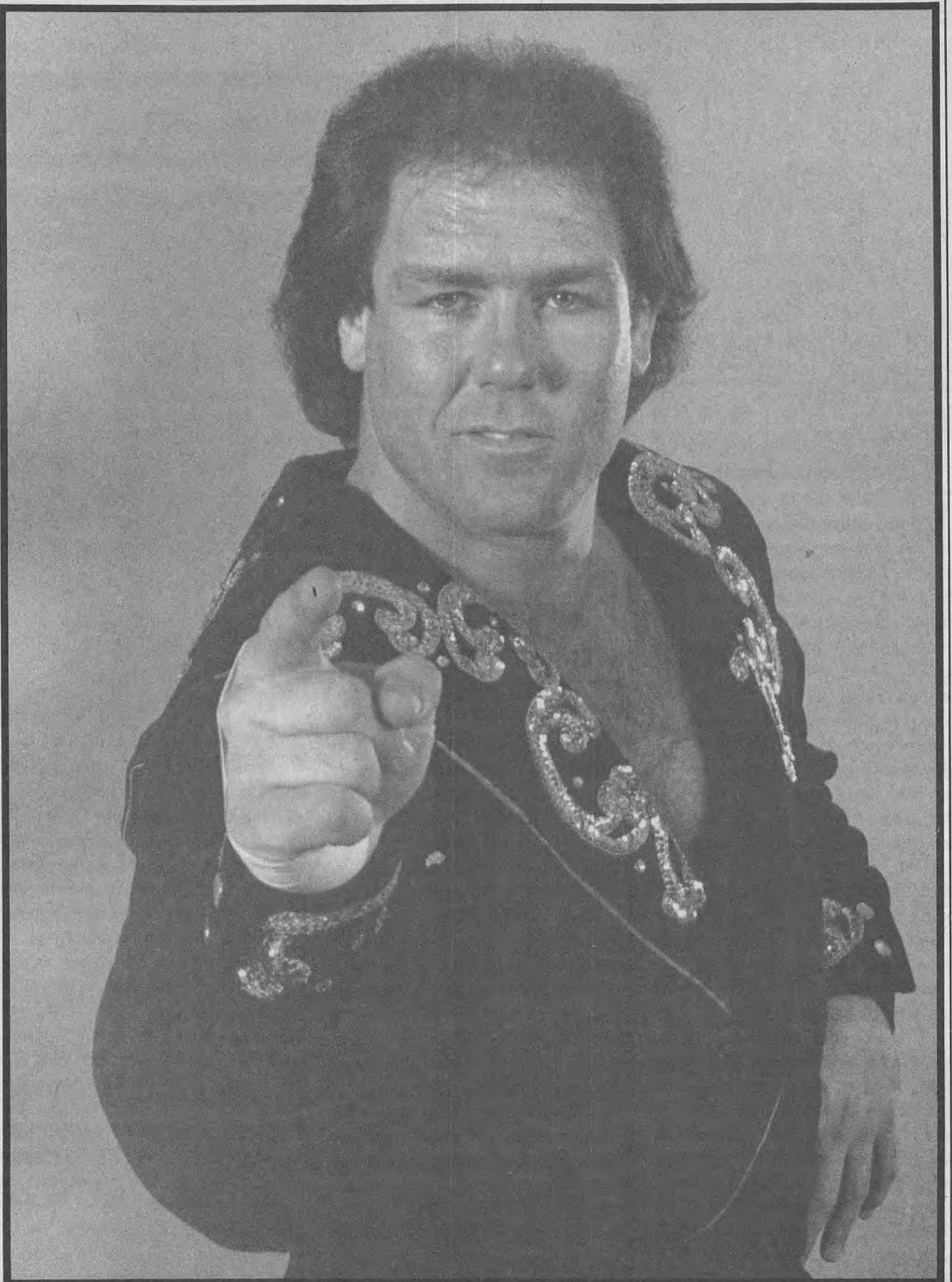
Tully Blanchard headlocks Tim Horner. As a member of The Four Horsemen, Blanchard is intent on spreading as much mayhem as he possibly can.



the belt on March 16, 1985, to Dusty Rhodes, with whom he has feuded for many years (*"Rhodes is absolutely a despicable fat slob. I'm ashamed to call him a fellow alumnus of West Texas State"*) ... Lost Baby Doll to Dusty Rhodes for 30 days as the result of a cage match at the first Great American Bash card in 1985 (*"I should have let him keep her"*) ... Defeated Magnum T.A. for the U.S. heavyweight championship on July 21, 1985, in Charlotte, North Carolina (*"The greatest moment in my career and I must admit, Baby Doll was a big help"*) ... The feud lasted the entire summer until T.A. regained the title at Starrcade '85, in what was supposed to be their last match (*"He wasn't getting away that easily. We still had a score to settle"*) ... Baby Doll finally left Tully for Dusty Rhodes when she got fed up with how Blanchard was treating her (*"Some women just can't appreciate a real man. She ended up with a real cow"*) ... Blanchard's current claim to

fame is as a member of The Four Horsemen with Arn Anderson, Ole Anderson, Ric Flair, and manager J.J. Dillon (*"The fiercest, most incredible foursome in wrestling history"*) ... Has also formed Tully Blanchard Enterprises (*"I'm applying for membership on the New York Stock Exchange, but I might be too big for them"*) ... Is the current NWA TV champ as the result of a controversial victory over Rhodes in a first blood match at Starrcade '86 (*"The TV title is now back where it belongs. Only thing is, I had to take in the belt about a yard to make it fit"*) ... Recently gave Lex Luger the chance to buy stock in Tully Blanchard Enterprises (*"I have taken an active interest in Lex's career. The man will be a great one"*) ... Proudly claims that he is responsible for at least a dozen men being forced out of wrestling (*"I was testing those wimps and they couldn't take the punishment. They didn't belong in the sport. They should thank me."*)

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



TULLY BLANCHARD

Fight For What's Right!

CAN SCOTT HALL TAME FLORIDA'S BEASTIE BOYS?

THE IMAGE ISN'T too hard to picture. Consider a dingy, grimy bar. A single naked 40-watt bulb provides the dim lighting under which a dingy, grimy bartender dispenses dingy, grimy drinks.

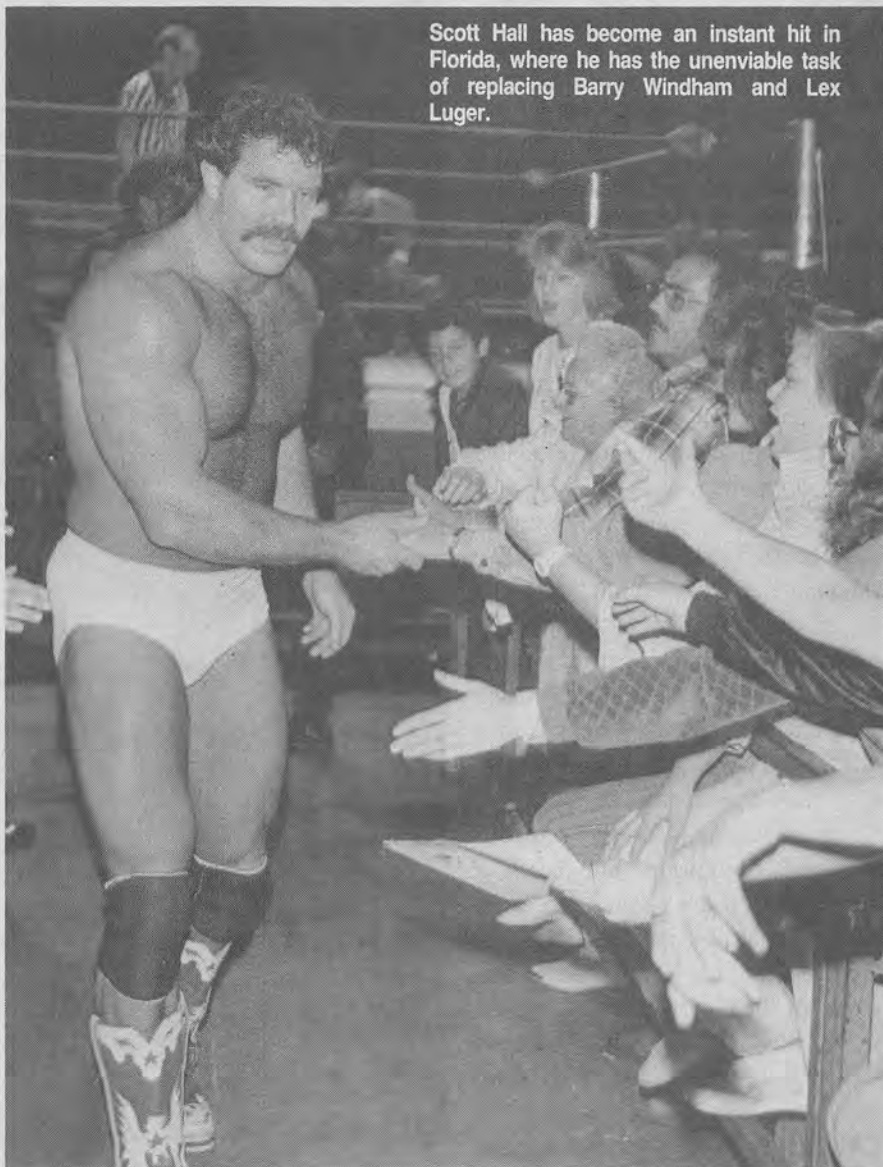
Huddled together near the jukebox are an even dozen men, loud and raucous: Sir Oliver Humperdink, Kevin Sullivan, The Cuban Assassin, Jerry Grey, Ed Gantner, Kareem Muhammad, Bruiser Brody, Sean Royal, Chris Champion, Abdullah the Butcher, a hefty gent going by the name of simply Tombstone, and a young manager named Paul E. Dangerously. They're all just one drink shy of becoming complete idiots.

One of 1987's most popular rock anthems is blasting out of the jukebox, and the 12 grapplers sway to and fro with the beat, singing along with The Beastie Boys on the rowdy chorus:

"YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT! FOR YOUR RIGHT! TO PARTY!"

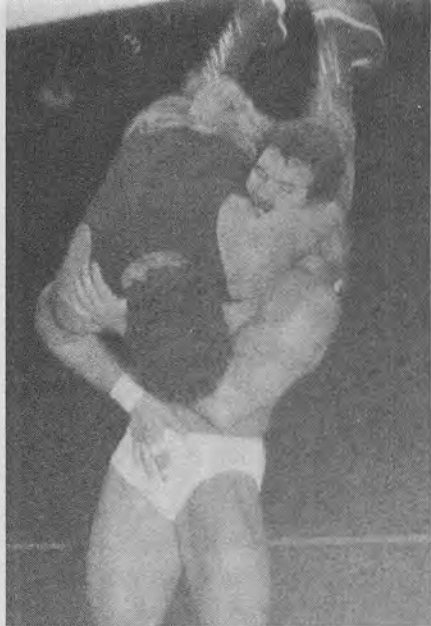
Scott Hall laughed at the image. "That's pretty good," he said. "You know, I can almost picture it! That's exactly the kind of guys they are, right? It's not surprising. Yeah, they're a bunch, all right. A bunch of beastie boys singing along to The Beastie Boys. Hahaha!"

Scott Hall has become an instant hit in Florida, where he has the unenviable task of replacing Barry Windham and Lex Luger.

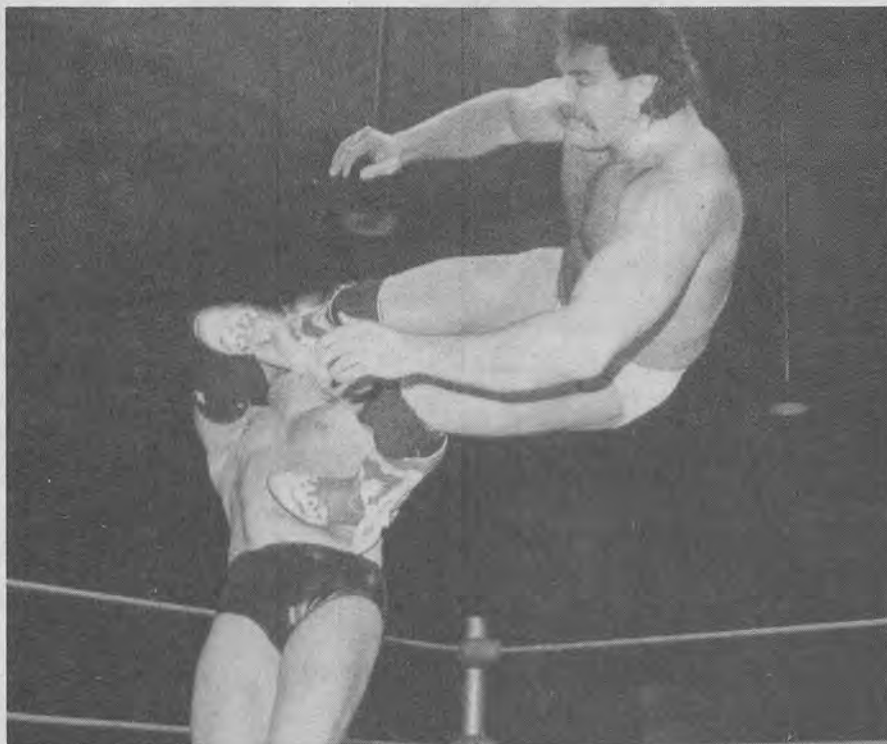


The battle lines are being drawn in Florida. Everyone is choosing sides. Scott Hall knows which side he's on, but as he looks across the dividing line he has to be wondering: Am I in over my head?

Photos by Duane Long & Bill Otten



The fight against Florida's Beastie Boys will be a tough one, but Hall is ready for the challenge. He slams The Cuban Assassin (above), dropkicks Jerry Grey (right), and twists The Assassin's arm (below). Hall is a man who fights more for principle than for glory.

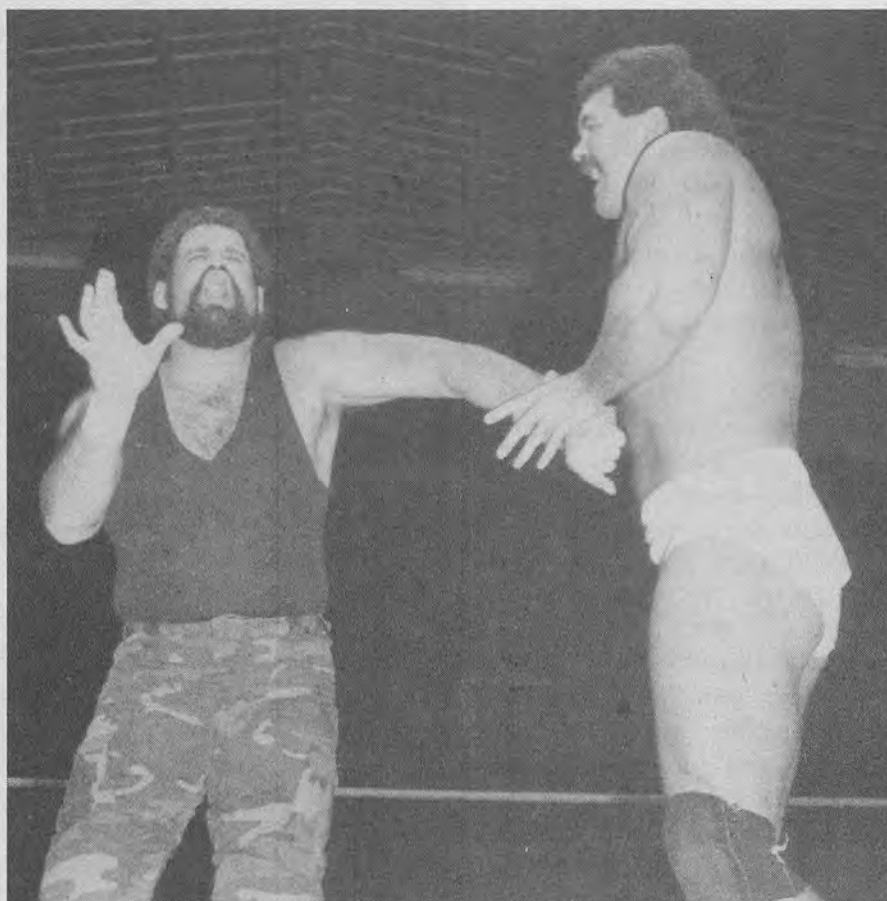


The image may be funny, but the reality of these 12 men forming a union in the Sunshine State is deeply sobering. Particularly to Hall, a relative newcomer on the Florida scene, who finds himself facing a formidable wall of opposition.

"Wrestling is a sport that operates on two levels," said the muscular 6'8", 290-pounder, "competition for the sake of competition, and competition for the sake of trying to prove a philosophical point. Now, I'm not really saying anything that anybody doesn't know already, but sometimes you've got to state the obvious.

"I love wrestling for the competition," Hall continued, "but there's a part of me that has to wrestle because there are principles involved. I mean, that's a side of me I can't deny, and it's part of the reason . . . well, maybe it's the whole reason why I got so involved with that feud with Col. DeBeers last year.

"Man, that feud wiped me out, but I kept digging down deeper and deeper and finding more ways to get at DeBeers. He's a perfect example of why a man has to wrestle for principle. DeBeers may not be the greatest pure wrestler in the world, but he's a tough man. And in wrestling, a tough man is in a position to have his voice heard.



And DeBeers—well, his is a voice that should be silenced for all time."

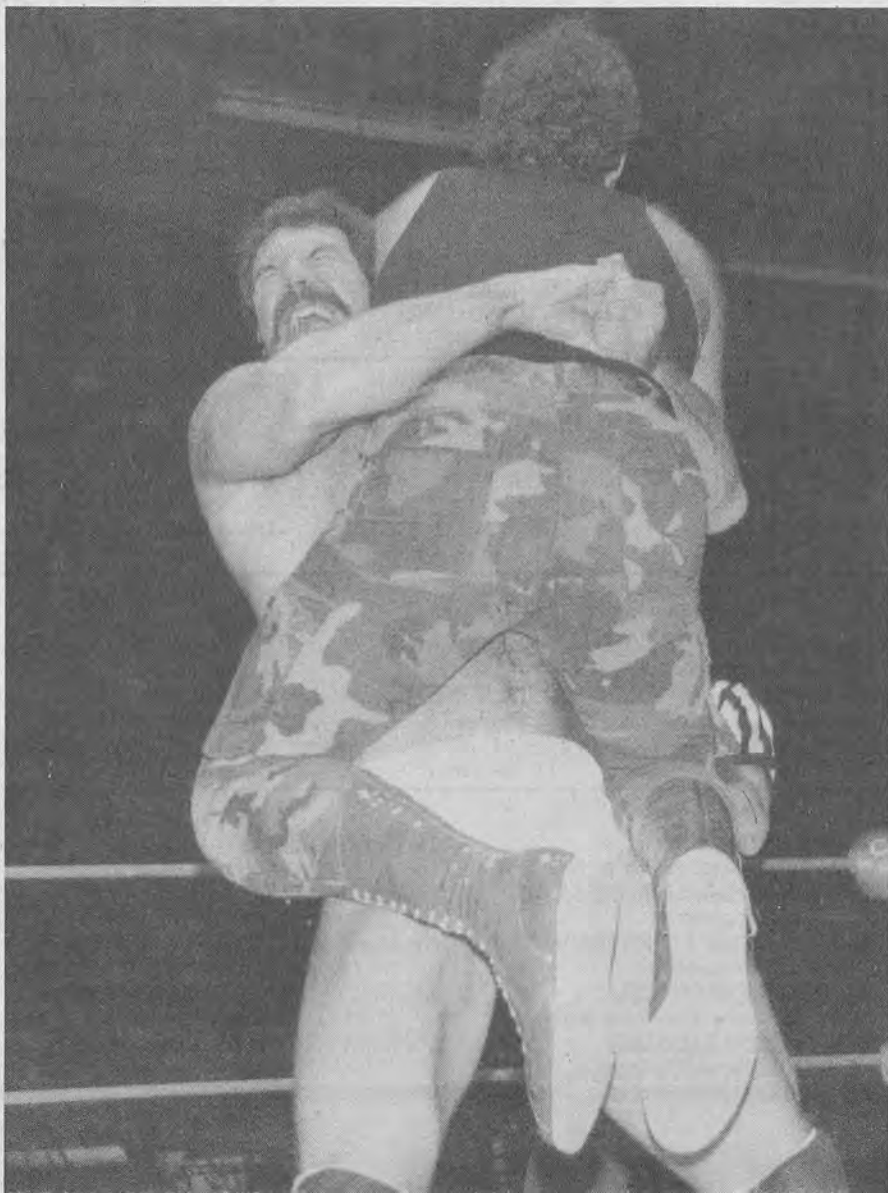
Hall gets intensely emotional when he talks about DeBeers, as if he still has not left the AWA, despite the fact that he's over 1,500 miles away from the man. It takes a few moments of

silence for Hall to shake off his vivid memories of the DeBeers feud, and he is again ready to talk about his current situation.

"I may not have been in Florida for very long," Hall is willing to concede, "but I can sense that something serious



Hall whips Grey across the ring (above) and bearhugs The Assassin (below). Sir Oliver Humperdink, Kevin Sullivan, and other rulebreakers have a mission in Florida and do not plan to let Scott Hall stand in their way.



is about to happen. Things are different now than from when I first arrived. There's a polarization going on. Battle lines are being drawn, and anyone caught in the middle is going to be destroyed.

"We all know about Kevin and Sir Oliver Humperdink, but there's a lot of new blood in Florida, a lot of young guys who are impressionable. That's a major danger."

Hall is a young guy himself, but he understands that people like Sean Royal and Ed Gantner and Chris Champion and Paul E. Dangerously and Tombstone are in the kind of position where they're liable to do *anything* to command attention, glory, and a championship belt—if not respect.

"There are a bunch of young turks here willing to take shortcuts to win," Hall said. "They're impressionable to the kinds of things Humperdink and Sullivan might suggest. And that's not right, particularly when you consider the way the kids here might look at such kinds of actions.

"That gets us back to wrestling for principle," Hall continued. "I've made it perfectly clear here what my views are, and I'm not going to put up with the likes of Sullivan and Humperdink and the rest of the boys in Florida."

Yes, the lines *are* being drawn in Florida, and strong rhetoric like Hall's acts as additional fuel for the eventual conflagration to come. The rulebreakers look at Hall, they see his power and potential, and they fear him. They believe, perhaps rightly so (from their own point of view), that Hall must be stopped—or eliminated—before his influence in the Sunshine State becomes too strong for their taste.

And Hall—well, Hall is going to have to come up against the beastie boys of the Florida wrestling scene, one by one, perhaps in pairs, or perhaps outnumbered in sneak-attacks.

YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT!

FOR YOUR RIGHT!

Hall is fighting, not for his right to party, but for what he feels is right in a philosophical sense.

Win or lose, that's the noblest fight of all. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 8— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 12— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 5— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI | 9— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 13— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB |
| 3— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 6— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 10— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 14— DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX |
| | 7— KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX | 11— TERRY GORDY
289, Chattanooga, TN | 15— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX | 8— DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX | 12— ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN |
| 2— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— CARLOS COLON
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico | 13— BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA |
| 3— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 6— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 10— RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL | 14— TENNESSEE STUD
244, Dyersburg, TN |
| | 7— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA | 11— BAD NEWS ALLEN
280, New York, NY | 15— BILL DUNDEE
214, Melbourne, Australia |

AWA

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 4— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 8— KEVIN KELLY
271, Oakland, CA | 12— BRIAN KNOBBS
278, Allentown, PA |
| 2— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 5— COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa | 9— LEON WHITE
375, Denver, CO | 13— EARTHQUAKE FERRIS
380, San Francisco, CA |
| 3— JIMMY SNUKA
251, Fiji Islands | 6— RAY STEVENS
243, San Francisco, CA | 10— SUPER NINJA
263, Japan | 14— BORIS ZUKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia |
| | 7— AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV | 11— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 15— MR. SAITO
247, Japan |

WWF

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI | 8— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
265, Tampa, FL | 12— KAMALA
402, Uganda |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 5— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 9— BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR | 13— GEORGE STEELE
298, Detroit, MI |
| 3— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 6— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 10— TITO SANTANA
245, Toluca, Mexico | 14— HARLEY RACE
255, Kansas City, MO |
| | 7— ADRIAN ADONIS
313, New York, NY | 11— PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL | 15— JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI | 8— KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX | 12— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB |
| 2— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— JIMMY SNUKA
251, Fiji Islands | 13— BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA |
| 3— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 6— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 10— JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL | 14— BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR |
| | 7— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 11— SCOTT HALL
290, Minneapolis, MN | 15— LANCE VON ERICH
260, Arlington, TX |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 4— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 8— MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA | 12— ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 5— COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa | 9— ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL | 13— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA |
| 3— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 6— DANNY DAVIS
220, Boston, MA | 10— BRIAN ADIAS
238, Denton, TX | 14— AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV |
| | 7— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX | 11— ADRIAN ADONIS
313, New York, NY | 15— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag title | 6— RICK MARTEL & TOM ZENK
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title | 11— THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title |
| 2— BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART
WWF World tag team champions | 7— BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN
U.S. tag team champions | 12— BIG BUBBA & GOLIATH
Mid-Southern tag team champions |
| 3— MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE
NWA World tag team champions | 8— TERRY TAYLOR & CHRIS ADAMS
UWF tag team champions | 13— PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title |
| 4— THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
AWA World tag team champions | 9— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title | 14— TRACY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG
Florida tag team champions |
| 5— THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title | 10— BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL
World Class tag team champions | 15— RICKY SANTANA & COCOA SAMOA
Pacific Northwest tag team champions |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended February 26, 1987

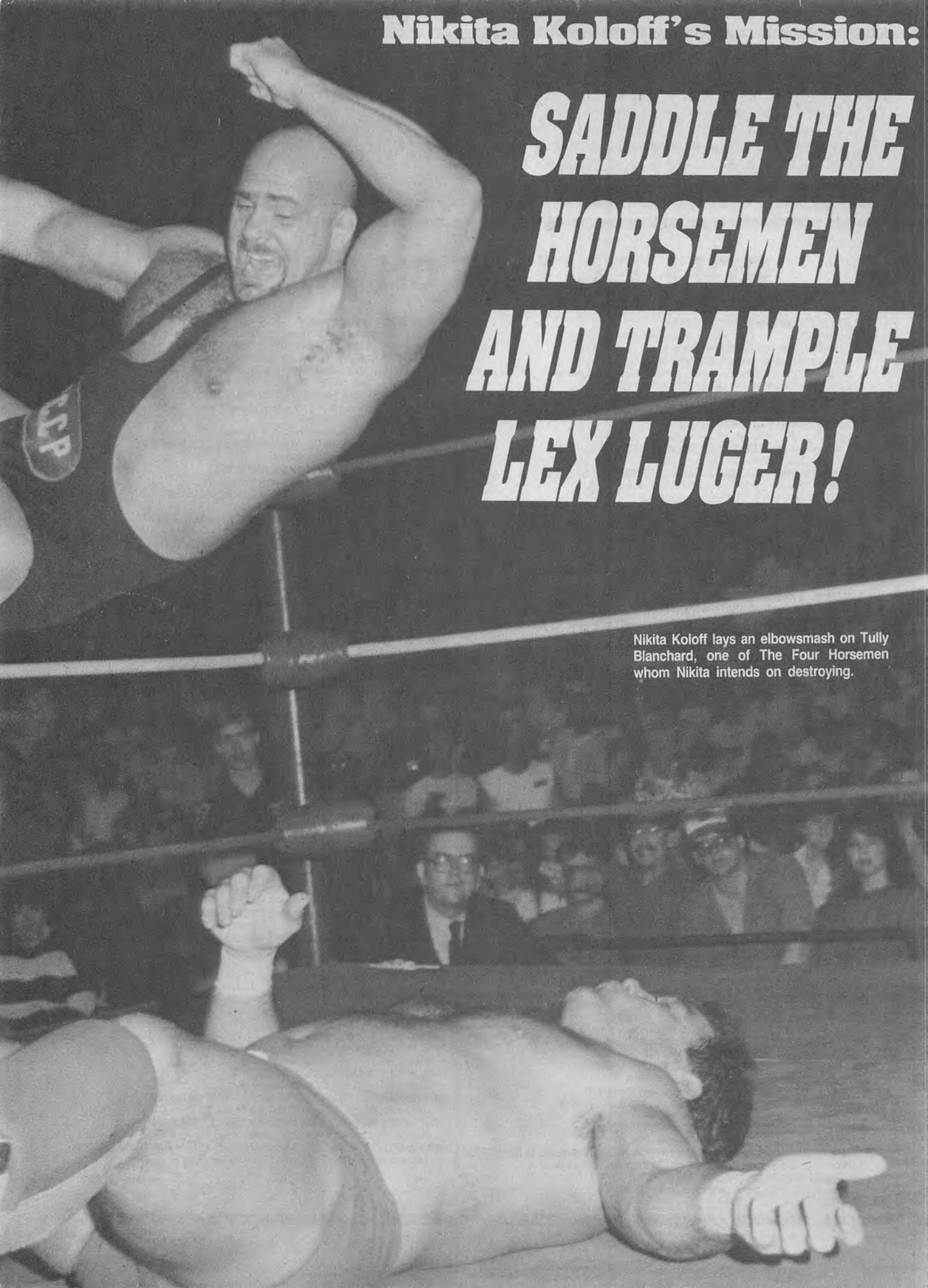
ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALABAMA CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**
(January 12, 1987; from Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
SUPER STRONG MACHINE & ASHURA HARA
(October 30, 1986; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Aomori, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)
- * **ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
JUMBO TSURUTA & GENICHIRO TENRYU
(February 5, 1987; from Riki Choshu & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Sapporo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI**
(August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL**
(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL**
(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
(January 27, 1987; from Buddy Rose & Doug Somers; St. Paul, MN)
- BAHAMAS CHAMPION: BAD NEWS ALLEN**
(December 16, 1986; from The Falcon; Orlando, FL)
- BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: OWEN HART**
(October 25, 1986; from Les Thornton; Edmonton, Alberta)
- * **CALGARY NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: MAKHAN SINGH**
(February 6, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)
- CALGARY INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by The Viet Cong Express)
- * **CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
(February 22, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Montreal, Quebec)
- * **CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & ARMAND ROUGEAU**
(February 8, 1987; from Sheik Ali & Richard Charland; Montreal, Quebec)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE**
(January 3, 1987; from Sam Houston; Topeka, KS)
- CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE M.O.D. SQUAD**
(January 2, 1987; from Todd Champion & Dave Petersen; Kansas City, KS)
- * **FLORIDA CHAMPION: SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK**
(February 24, 1987; from Bad News Allen; Tampa, FL)
- * **FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TRACY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG**
(February 21, 1987; from Sean Royal & Chris Champion; Sarasota, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
(September 19, 1986; from Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUKARI OMORI**
(August 23, 1986; from Devil Masami; Kawasaki, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Dump Matsumoto & Bull Nakano)
- MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Big Bubba)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Ronnie Garvin)
- * **MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: AUSTIN IDOL**
(February 3, 1987; tournament final over Soul Train Jones; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: SOUL TRAIN JONES**
(January 15, 1987; from Big Bubba; Memphis, TN)
- * **MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
AKIO SATO & TARZAN GOTO
(February 5, 1987; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Memphis, TN)
- * **MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GOLIATH & BIG BUBBA**
(February 23, 1987; from The RPMs; Memphis, TN)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**
(September 1, 1986; from Steve Regal; Greenville, SC)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD**
(November 27, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Greensboro, NC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**
(August 9, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; St. Louis)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
(December 6, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**
(December 4, 1986; from The Assassin; Portland, WA)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICKY SANTANA & COCOA SAMOA**
(January 7, 1987; from Mike Miller & Abughdadien; Portland, WA)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU**
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
(January 5, 1987; from Rip Rogers; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TENNESSEE STUD**
(February 4, 1987; from Kevin Sullivan; Houston, TX)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NIGHTMARES**
(December 25, 1986; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON**
(January 9, 1987; from Tom Pritchard; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHERN CHAMPION: KEVIN SULLIVAN**
(February 18, 1987; from Bad News Allen; Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
- U.S. CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF**
(August 17, 1986; best-of-seven final over Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)
(September 28, 1986; unification victory over National heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel; Atlanta, GA)
- U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**
(December 9, 1986; from Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev; Spartanburg, SC)
- UWA MEXICAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHINOBU KANDORI**
(December 23, 1986; from Lola Gonzales; Tokyo, Japan)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ONE MAN GANG**
(November 11, 1986; awarded by Terry Gordy's default; Tulsa, OK)
- * **UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY TAYLOR & CHRIS ADAMS**
(February 7, 1987; from Rick Steiner & Sting; Ft. Worth, TX)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: SAVANNAH JACK**
(November 11, 1986; from Buddy Roberts; Tulsa, OK)
- WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**
(October 12, 1986; from Black Bart; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**
(December 1, 1986; from Lance Von Erich & Dingo Warrior; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**
(December 1, 1986; from Crusher Yurkof; Ft. Worth, TX)
- * **WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: DINGO WARRIOR**
(February 2, 1987; from Bob Bradley; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III**
(November 9, 1986; from Don Kent; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**
(January 21, 1987; from Bob Heffernan; Catano, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
BOB HEFFERNAN & EL GRAN MENDOZA
(January 6, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Big Red; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MIGHTY IGOR**
(January 9, 1987; from Al Perez; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD**
(January 6, 1987; from Ron & Chicky Starr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(September 21, 1986; tournament final over Terry Funk; San Juan, PR)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
(January 26, 1987; from The British Bulldogs; Tampa, FL)
- WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WWF WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

Nikita Koloff's Mission:

***SADDLE THE
HORSEMEN
AND TRAMPLE
LEX LUGER!***

Nikita Koloff lays an elbowsmash on Tully Blanchard, one of The Four Horsemen whom Nikita intends on destroying.



Nikita Koloff once had a mission to defeat Magnum T.A., win the U.S. title, and embarrass the United States. But things have changed. Now the man known as The Russian Nightmare has The Four Horsemen on his mind, and he plans to destroy them all



Nikita hiptosses Ric Flair (above) and throws Blanchard across the ring (below). He plans to eliminate the Horsemen one by one, then deal with their associate, Lex Luger. It is a far cry from the days when Nikita had to listen to his uncle Ivan Koloff and The Kremlin.



IT'S MIDNIGHT IN Atlanta and Nikita Koloff walks the streets alone. The match he fought earlier that evening has been forgotten, and it's too early to think about the next night's battle. Koloff is experiencing that peaceful moment of the day when he doesn't have to think about wrestling.

He passes by a couple of rundown bars and out of one walks a young man wearing a bright yellow and red "Nikita" T-shirt. But this wrestling fan doesn't recognize Nikita, dressed in civilian clothes and dark glasses. He continues walking and Nikita stops to pause. In the Soviet Union, Nikita could not go anywhere without being recognized. There, he was a national hero. Here, he is a professional athlete in a country where celebrities are commonplace.

"I was great hero in Soviet Union," Nikita said just days after joining forces with Dusty Rhodes. "When I walked in streets, people would stop and say, 'There goes great wrestler Nikita Koloff. He is greatest athlete in the world.' Even when I wanted privacy, my government would not let me be alone because they wanted to parade me as symbol of Russian superiority."

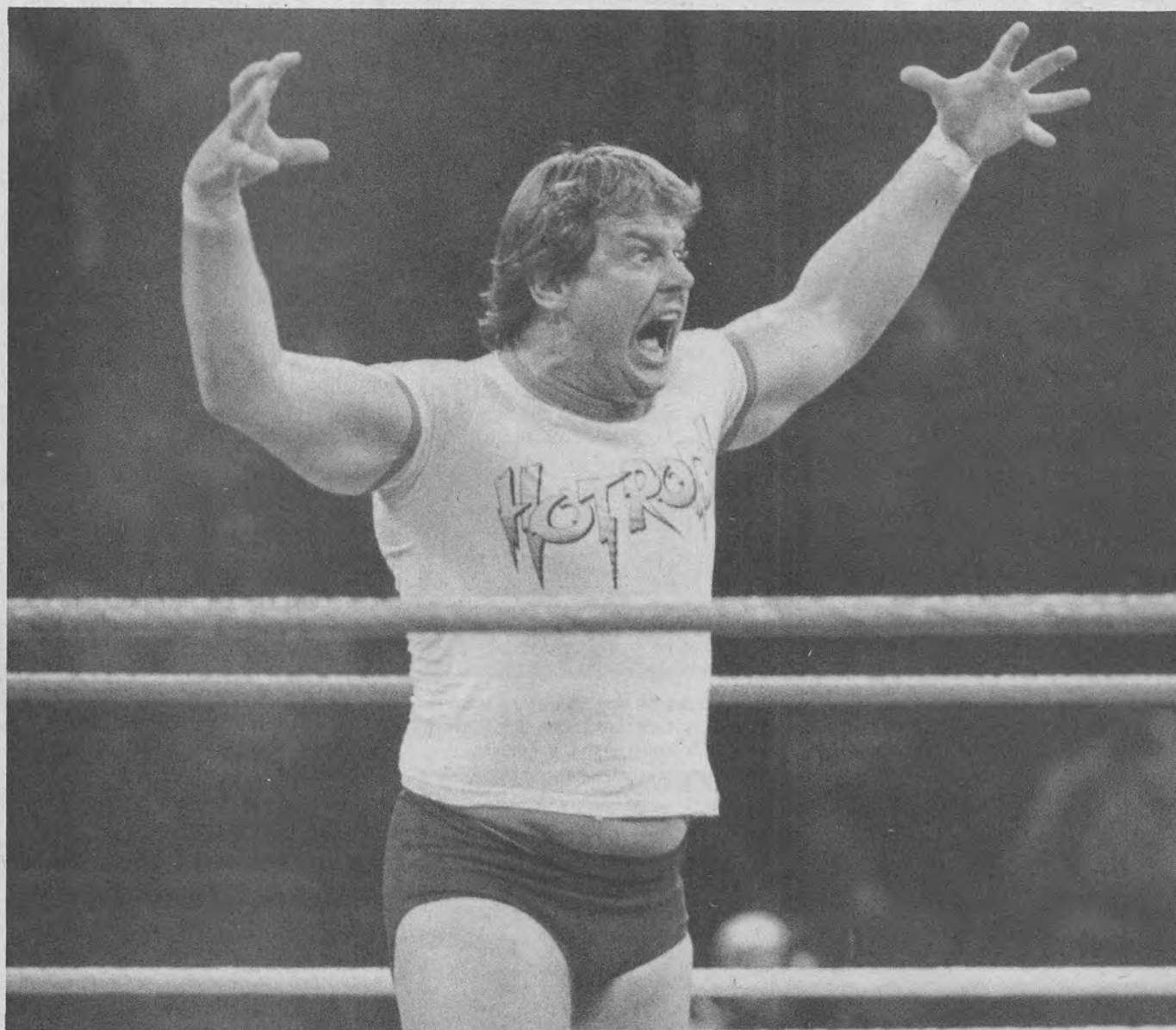
The seemingly harmless encounter with the wrestling fan has done its damage. Now, the words and pictures of the past months start cascading wildly through Nikita's mind.

"I am the same man I always was," Nikita once said. "I have not changed. It is my Uncle who has changed, and my government. They just don't understand."

The deserted streets of Atlanta no longer provide the solace that Nikita yearns for. He hails a cab

(Continued on page 56)

Roddy Piper's Retirement:



HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

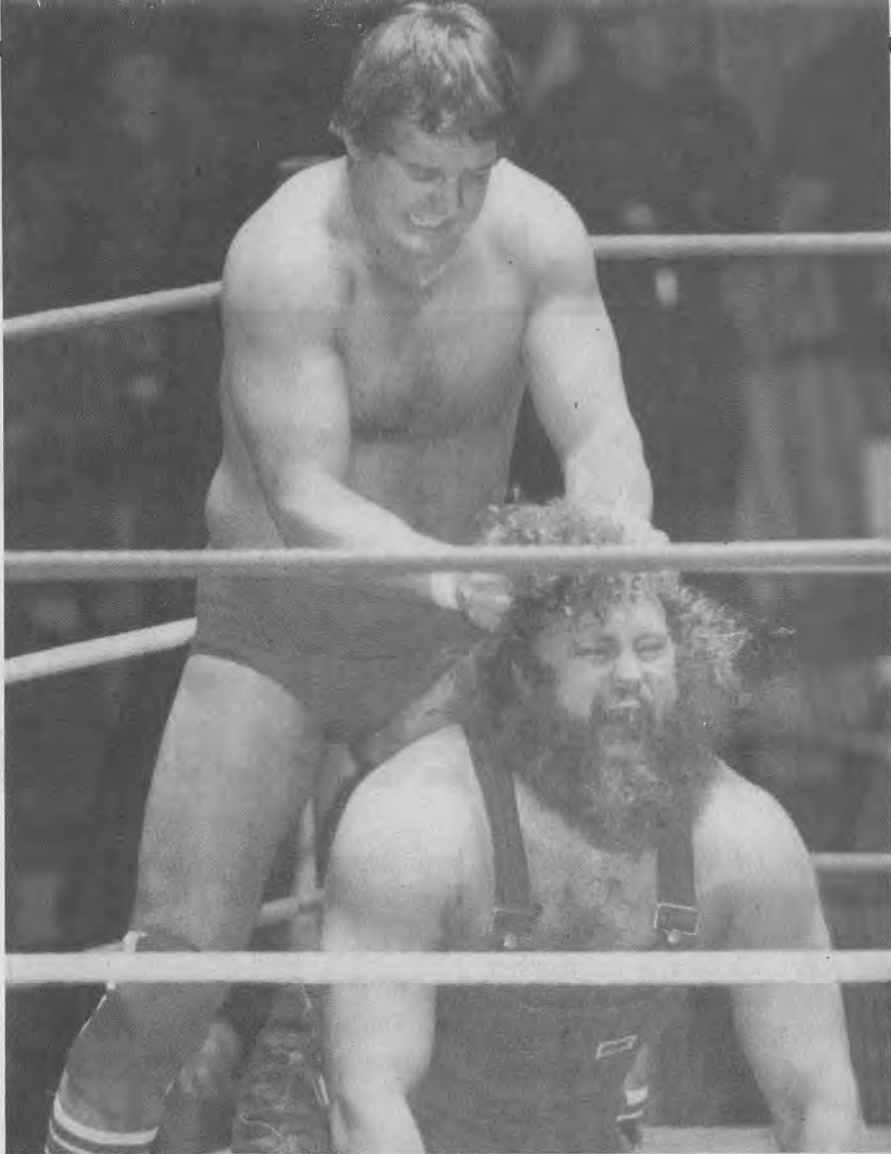
By Sidney M. Basil, Ph.D.

[Editor's note: Dr. Sidney M. Basil, one of the most respected clinical psychologists in North America, has become an expert of sorts on the subject of wrestling star Roddy Piper. In the September 1985 issue of **Inside Wrestling**, Dr. Basil was commissioned to examine the then-hated Piper. In the December 1986 issue of **The Wrestler**, Dr. Basil was flown in from Berkeley, California, for his opinion when it became apparent that Piper had turned into a fan favorite. Now that Piper's career has apparently taken its final turn and he has announced his retirement from the sport, the editors of **Inside Wrestling** have asked Basil for his expert analysis once again. Why did he do it? Is it permanent? And if not, how long will it last? As always, Dr. Basil's comments are insightful, intelligent, and timely.]

I HAVE DEDICATED my life to studying the human mind and rarely have I encountered an individual such as Roddy Piper. It is most unfortunate that I have never had the opportunity to examine him on a personal basis for I believe that he would make a most unusual case study. From what I can gather on a purely observational basis, Mr. Piper is thoroughly unpredictable and can act in any way at any time.

My colleague, Dr. James R. Bradfish, and I recently completed the study of a 28-year-old man from San Francisco whose behavior was alarmingly inconsistent. He was unable to hold down a job for more than three months at a time because his behavior and the way he interacted with people changed from day to day. We eventually hypothesized that his behavior was connected to his desire to be popular. Unfortunately, his actual personality was that of a bitter, jealous person. He was most unpopular, no matter what he did.

(Continued on page 62)



The complex Roddy Piper displays both sides of his personality by pulling the hair of fan favorite Hillbilly Jim (above) and twisting rulebreaker Harley Race's arm while teaming with Hulk Hogan (below).



HOTSEAT

BRUISER BRODY:

"NOBODY'S CRIPPLED MORE PEOPLE THAN ME!"

THINK OF BRUISER BRODY, and several adjectives come to mind. Nasty, ornery, mean, tough. In other words, it's hard to say anything about the guy without sounding like you're insulting him. But in a perverse sort of way, Brody has won the respect of wrestling fans for his willingness to stand up to any man who stands in his way, be it fan favorite or rulebreaker.

Texas fans, in particular, are grateful to Brody for engaging in a feud with Abdullah the Butcher, one of the most hated creatures in the sport. Over the past year, Butcher and Brody have spilled gallons of blood in their war. But it looked like that feud had ended when Brody lost a loser-leave-town match to Abdullah last Christmas.

A while later, a masked wrestler named Red River Jack debuted in the World Class area. Almost immediately, Gary Hart, Abdullah's manager, claimed that Red River Jack was actually Brody wearing a mask. As expected, Brody has denied this, but Hart is relentlessly carrying his protest to World Class officials.

In an effort to get Brody's version of recent events, Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez flew out to the World Class offices in Dallas, Texas. Now working periodically as a broadcaster, Brody

was alternately polite and mannered, then coarse and rude.

Q: Let's get right to it. Are you Red River Jack?

A: You're asking me if I'm Red River

“

Wherever I go, all the hospitals are put on standby. The doctors and nurses know they'll have a rough night ahead of them.

”

Whatshisname? Let me ask you something, Rodriguez. Have you ever seen this Red River Jack guy wrestle?

Q: As a matter of fact, I have.

A: And does he wrestle like me?

Q: To tell you the truth, yes, he does.

A: So, do you think I'm Red River Jack?

Q: Well, I . . . Hey, wait a minute, Bruiser. I'm supposed to be asking

the questions here. Now, are you or aren't you Red River Jack?

A: I'm not gonna sit here and be insulted by you, you little varmint. I suppose Gary Hart's gotten some silly idea in your head that I'm this masked guy. Boy, you oughta know by now that Hart's one of the biggest liars in wrestling.

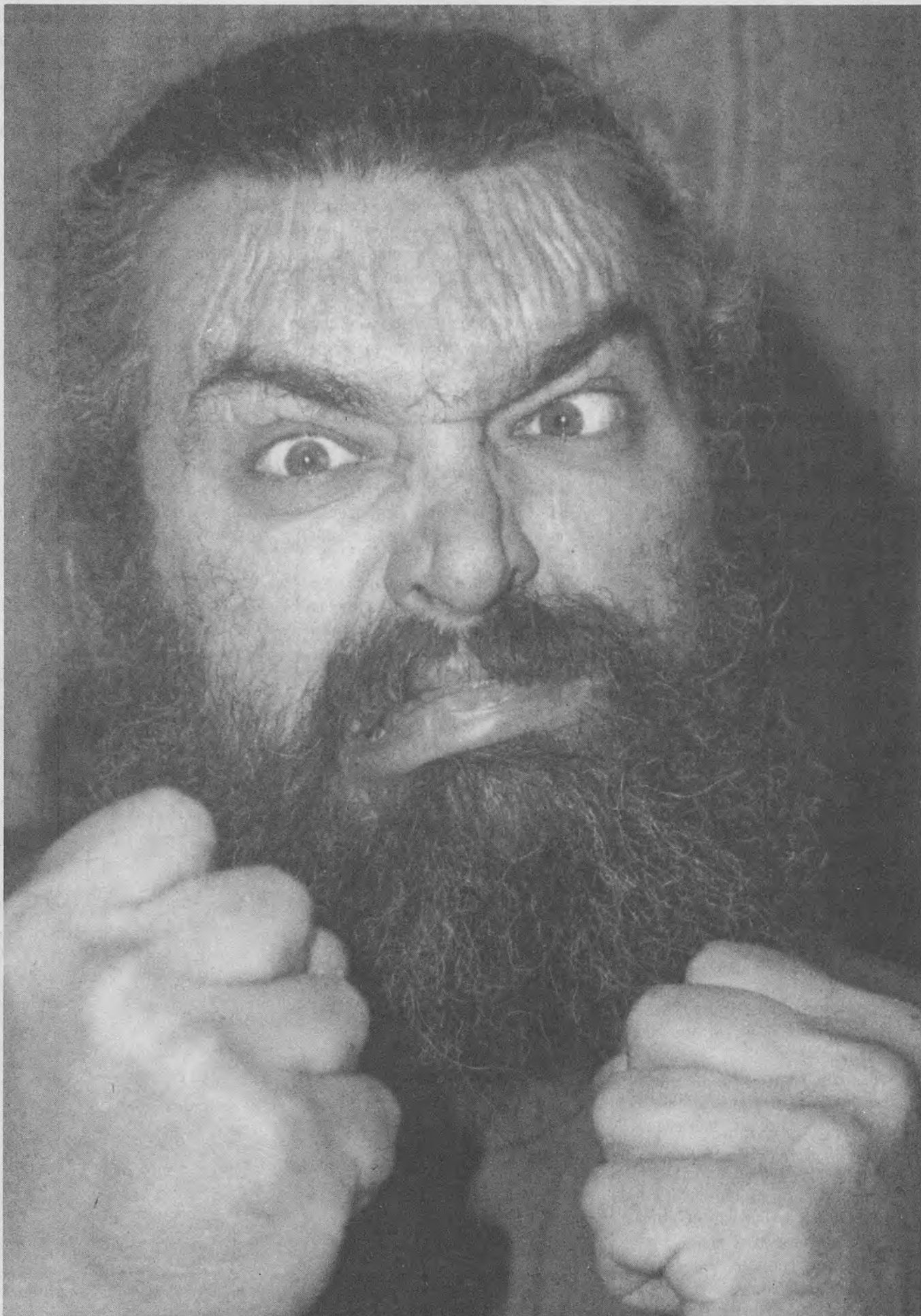
Q: It's obvious you don't want to answer the question.

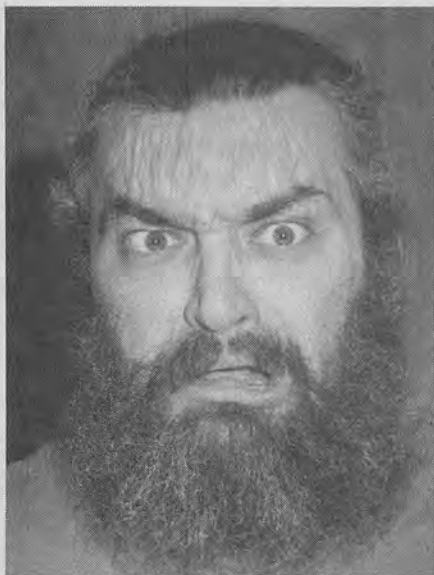
A: Congratulations, boy. That's the first smart thing you've said so far.

Q: I'll get back to Red River Jack later. You've always been known as one of the most bloodthirsty men in wrestling, more concerned about hurting an opponent than winning a match. Do you deserve this reputation?

A: Deserve it? Heck, I'm proud of it. Nobody's crippled more people than me. Nobody's put more people in the hospital than me. Wherever I go, all the hospitals are put on alert. All the ambulances are on standby. The doctors and nurses know they'll have a rough night ahead of them. Hell, when I wrestled in San Antonio, they brought an ambulance into the arena every match of mine!

Q: It's been said that you've been dis-





“
The best way to fight a wild man is to be one yourself. Look into his eyes. Use foreign objects if you have to. Pull out all the stops.
 ”

qualified more than any other man in the history of the sport.

A: Yeah, that sounds about right. I do get a little out of hand sometimes.

Q: A little out of hand? You wrestle like a crazy man.

A: What's wrong with being crazy? Being crazy has made me a lot of money. That's all that counts. That's all I care about. It's the attitude that's gotten me to the top.

Q: But in the World Class area, the fans don't respect you for that. They respect you for what you've done to try and get rid of Abdullah the Butcher.

A: The only way to get rid of the Butcher is to be a maniac like he is. That's what he understands. The best way to fight a wild man is to be one yourself. Look into his eyes. Use foreign objects if you have to. Pull out all the stops, that's how you beat him.

Q: Would you consider Abdullah the toughest man you've ever faced?

A: Yeah he's tough, but I've faced

tougher guys, guys whose names I can't even remember, that's how many of them there's been.

Q: Here's a name you better get familiar with: Jeep Swenson, Hart's latest find. The guy's big: 6'4", 385 pounds. He stole a mask that he thought was yours.

A: Yeah? Well, the mask isn't mine!

Q: Then why were you so angry when he came out to the ring with it before the match between Hart and David Manning?

A: Because I didn't like the way him and Hart were trying to make me look bad.

Q: You came to the ring and smashed a chair over Swenson's head and he just smiled.

A: He's got nothing up there to hurt.

Q: Swenson then took Manning into the stands and gave him quite a thorough beating. What are your thoughts on that?

A: Manning better learn to take care of himself and Swenson had better learn that not every wrestler down

here is as easy a mark as Manning. I'm gonna teach that Swensen a lesson and when I'm done, they're gonna be peeling his body off the mat.

Q: You won't stop at anything, will you?

A: These bums get in the ring and they'd better be prepared for everything I've got. This is wrestling, Rodriguez, and it's survival of the fittest.

Q: You seem to have a certain fondness for chairs.

A: What're you getting at?

Q: You seem to enjoy picking up chairs and smashing wrestlers over the head with them.

A: So, what of it?

Q: Well, isn't that against the rules?

A: You just show me where. I've told you this before, Rodriguez. This sport isn't for the wimps and twerps. If you're not a real man, you don't belong, and I'm here to weed out the wimps and twerps. Got it?



After pounding Gary Hart to his knees, Brody stuns Abdullah the Butcher with a right hand to the side of the head. World Class fans appreciate Brody's efforts more than Brody appreciates World Class fans.



Blood runs down the Butcher's face as he takes a tremendous beating from the Bruiser. Both wrestlers have spilled tremendous amounts of blood during this lengthy feud.

Q: Not exactly, but let's get on to something else. How do you like announcing?

A: Compared to wrestling, it's the easiest thing I've ever done. I'm a lot better announcer than Bill Mercer or Mark Lowrance. These announcers can cry all they want about how hard it is to interview us wrestlers, but they have the cushiest jobs in the world, as far as I'm concerned.

Q: If you're not careful, you might lose that cushy job.

A: So what. I've got better things to do anyway, like hurting people and tearing Gary Hart's brains out. Yeah, that's what I'm gonna do.

Q: I think the most incredible part about Bruiser Brody is that the fans seem to like you. Why do you think that is?

A: I don't care what the fans think. If they wanna cheer me, they can cheer me, but it don't make no difference. I don't listen to them

anyway.

Q: But they're the ones who pay your salary. Doesn't that mean anything to you?

A: Listen, Rodriguez. The only thing that counts in this world is money. The people who have it have all the power, and I've got it. If people want to spend their money to see me wrestle, that's their business, 'cause I'll take all they've got to give. Money, Rodriguez. Just remember that. The bottom line.

Q: In Japan, the fans love you and you seem to respect them, too.

A: Ya got that right, Rodriguez. In Japan, the fans know a legend when they see one. I'm the greatest wrestler in the world—even your magazines admitted that [*Editor's note: A story called "Rating The Wrestlers: An In-Depth Analysis Of The Sport's Top 20 Stars" in the Fall 1986 issue of Wrestling Superstars ranked Brody number one*]. I'm the most awesome human being they've ever seen. That's why I'm so popular.

Q: You think they might be scared of you?

A: Ignorance breeds fear, just remember that. These people know that I'm the best, so there's no reason to fear me. When they cheer me, it means something, not like these fans in America. All they know is Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair. Well, I'd take them both on at once and teach 'em a lesson. They wouldn't stand a chance.

Q: You're telling me that you would meet Flair and Hogan in a handicap match and win? That's ridiculous!

A: Are you doubting me?

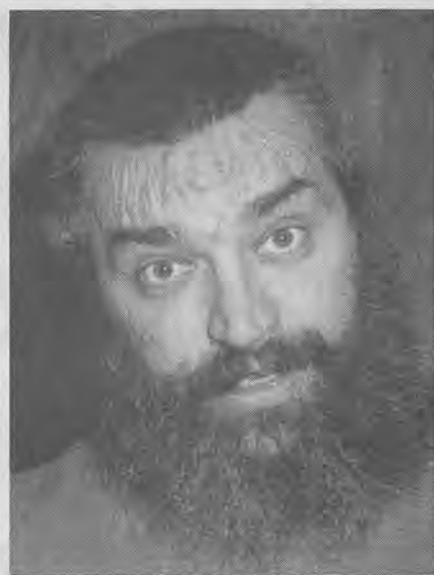
Q: Well, no, but . . .

A: Don't give me this double-talk crap, Rodriguez! Are you calling me a liar?

Q: No, I'm just asking a question.

A: Well, I don't like your questions, Rodriguez. Now get on to something else.

Q: Maybe you should ask the questions, Bruiser. That's the way things have been going.



“

Abdullah needs to be slashed, cut up, and canned. As for Gary Hart, I will see to it that he never steps foot into the state of Texas again.

”

A: Okay, from here on in, I'm doing all the talking. I'll start off with Abdullah, the most revolting thing I have ever seen in my life. Abdullah needs to be slashed, cut up, and canned. As for Gary Hart, I will see to it that he never steps foot into the state of Texas again. When I'm through with Abdullah, I'll take Hart and tear his limbs apart. They're gonna be swimming in their own blood, that's how bad it's gonna be. Jeep Swensen is a nobody and I shouldn't even have to concern myself with him. However, he stepped on my territory and he's gotta be taught a lesson. And as for you, Rodriguez, you'd better learn to ask the right questions. I'm getting Peter King on the phone right now and if he ever sends you down here again, I'm sending you back in a pine box. Hear that?

Q: I hear you.

A: Who said you can talk? Now get outta here, you little scum! □

Tag Team Without Trust: WHY CHRIS ADAMS AND TERRY TAYLOR ARE THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES!



CHRIS ADAMS AND Terry Taylor were doomed from day one. They never wanted to team with one another. Although the two wrestlers got along well, Adams had picked his partner—Iceman Parsons—and Taylor had picked his partner—Sam Houston. That's the way it was going to be.

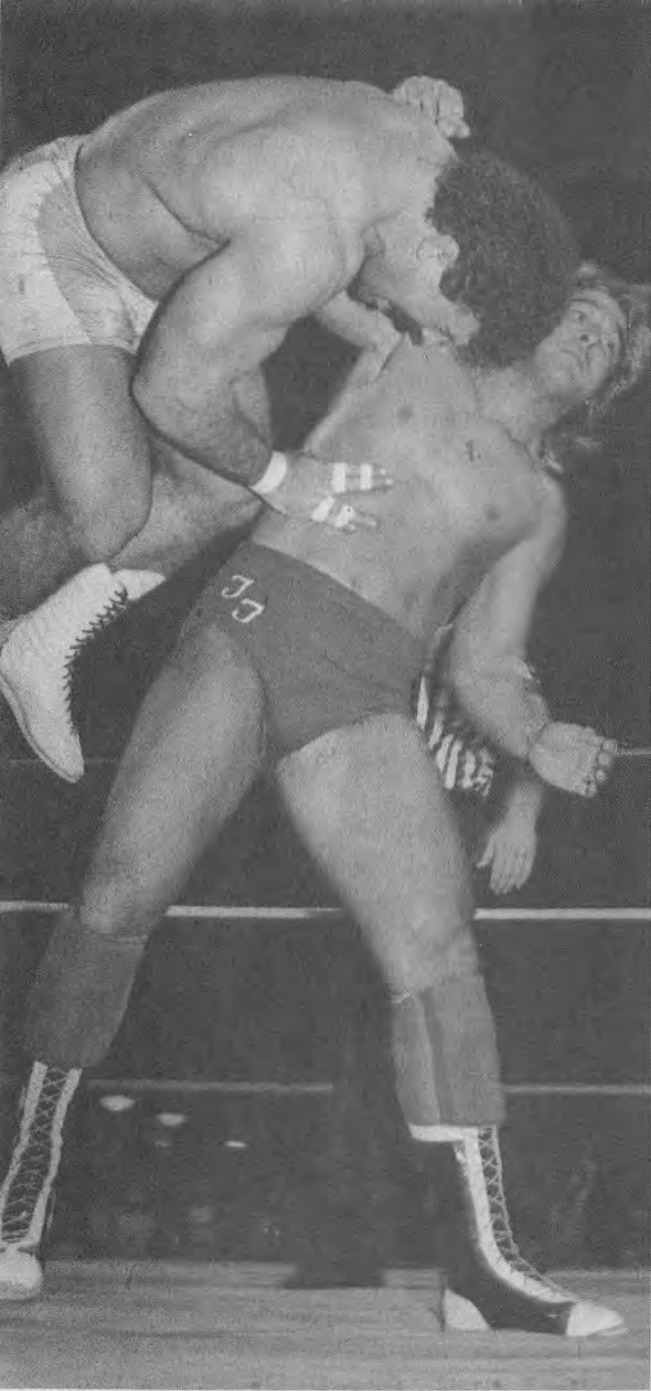
But the strange series of events that took place on February 7 at the Cowtown Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, could never have been anticipated and the tournament for the UWF tag team championship turned into a bizarre spectacle, bizarre even for a federation in which strange happenings are the *modus operandi*.

How in the world could Adams and Taylor have won the tournament when they weren't even entered together in the first place? When they didn't even want to team together? When, from latest reports, Taylor had to be coaxed from the dressing room when it was announced that he was chosen as Adams' replacement partner? When Adams chose Taylor only because the man he wanted as a replacement partner had been beaten up?

By now, the story has become common knowledge in the wrestling world.

Terry Taylor and Chris Adams were overjoyed after they won the UWF tag team belts. Their partnership is a tenuous one that may snap at any time.

The circumstances that led to the teaming of Chris Adams and Terry Taylor were bizarre, to say the least. And if the two men don't reconcile their differences soon, the UWF tag team belts will soon be gone



In the semifinal round of the tournament, Parsons and Adams took on Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams. The match was clean and uneventful until Gen. Skandor Akbar and his men climbed up on the ring apron and attacked DiBiase. Williams and Adams went out to help DiBiase, but Parsons remained in the ring. Finally, the referee counted out DiBiase and Williams so the victory was awarded to Adams and Parsons.

Adams, however, felt that this wasn't sportsmanlike and offered to let DiBiase and Williams come back to finish the match. Parsons thought that this was ridiculous and would have no

part of it. When Adams and Parsons decided that they no longer wanted to team with one another, a coin was tossed to see who would go on. Adams won the toss and was told to choose a new partner.

Sting and Steiner defeated Taylor and Houston in the next match and were scheduled to wrestle Adams and Parsons in the finals. With Parsons out of the tournament, Adams chose Savannah Jack as his new partner. But Parsons came into the ring and told Jack not to wrestle. A brawl ensued in which Savannah Jack injured his right shoulder. Now Adams had to choose another partner. He chose Taylor.

Taylor hiptosses Rick Steiner (above left) and Adams headlocks Sting (above right). Taylor and Adams won the title under strange circumstances. They didn't even start out the championship tournament as partners.

This part of the story ends with Taylor and Adams defeating Sting and Steiner for the UWF tag team belts.

The next part of the story starts with an exercise in common sense. Taylor, a fine athlete who has never asked for a free ride, could only get minor pleasure out of winning the belts with Adams. Taylor had chosen Houston as his partner and lost. The situation is akin to a baseball player who has spent the



Steiner attempts to break Adams' sleeperhold on Sting (left). Taylor drops a knee on Sting (below). It is surprising that Adams chose Taylor as his partner because Adams has said that two men of similar styles should not team up.

entire season on a last place team. Finally, on the last day of the season, he's traded to the team that eventually wins the World Series. Good fortune, certainly, but there's very little professional pride involved.

The situation is compounded by the fact that Taylor was still bitter over the departure of Hacksaw Duggan. Taylor and Duggan were the UWF tag champs before Hacksaw lost a loser-leave-town match to One Man Gang. Suddenly, Duggan was headed for the WWF and Taylor found himself without a partner and without a title. Taylor's bitterness was hardly alleviated by Adams' gift.

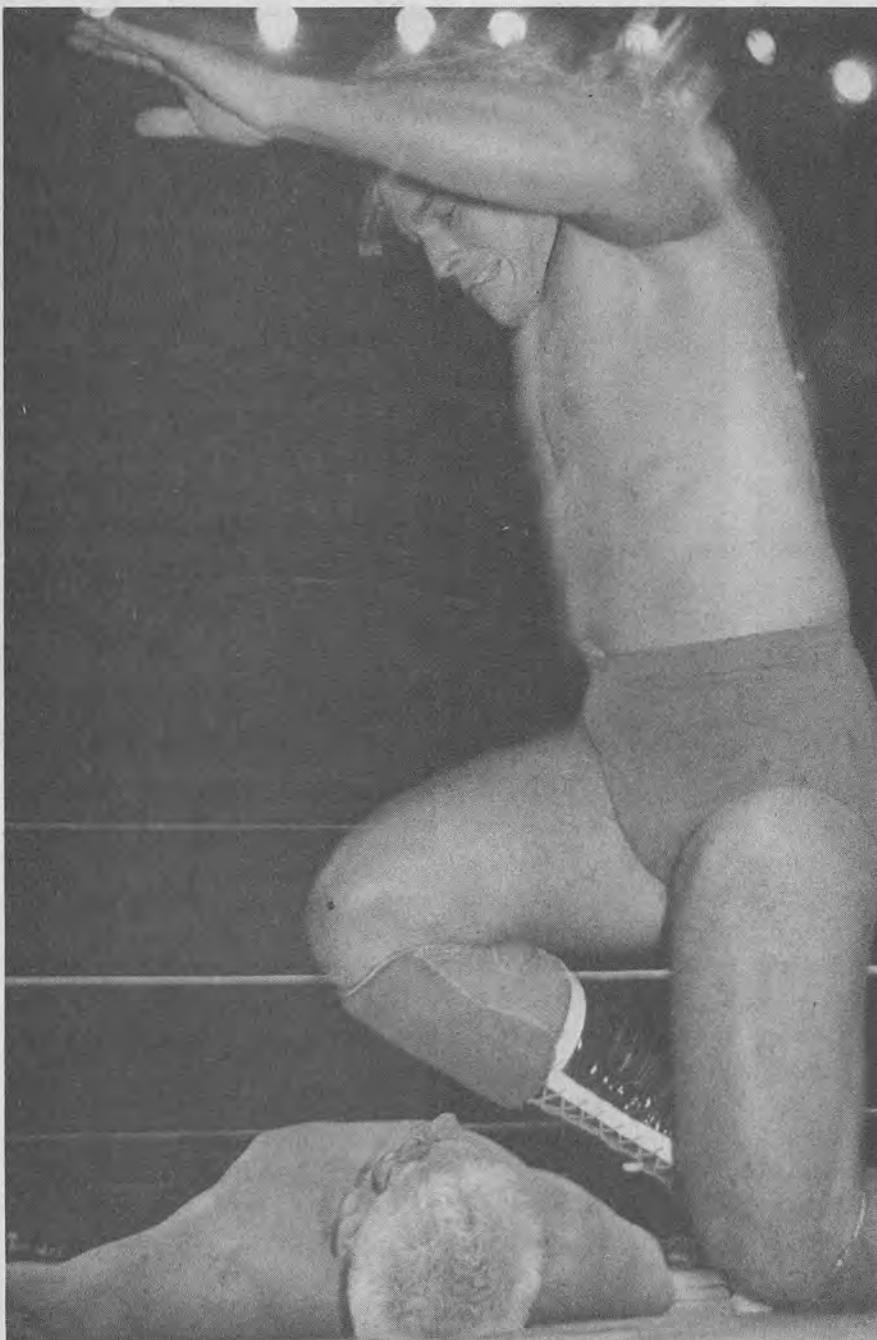
Adams also had some things on this mind. He was thrown for a loop by what was going on and, if given a viable alternative, probably would have never picked Taylor as his partner. "In my mind, the perfect tag team combines two wrestlers whose strengths and weaknesses are opposite," Adams once said. "Putting together two men with similar styles defeats the purpose."

There probably aren't two men in the UWF more similar than Adams and Taylor.

The other problem was that Adams privately disliked Taylor. "Things get around pretty quickly and when Chris was in jail, he heard that Terry's ego was getting out of hand," said one wrestler. "Now, Chris has been through the mill over the past few years and if there's one thing he hates, it's an ego. Chris has become a no-nonsense guy."

And there are other problems. The two men simply don't trust each other. While Adams was in prison serving a three-month sentence for interfering with a flight crew, Taylor was known to have some disparaging words for Adams. "He said once that he would never team with Adams because Adams had broken the law," said another

(Continued on page 64)



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"Why is it that you're teaming with an anti-American Russian commie like Ivan [Koloff]."

—Dusty Rhodes

THE AMERICAN DREAM and Capt. Redneck, Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch. They've had their arguments over the years, but over the long haul they've managed, for the most part, to stay together. As a team they were known as The Outlaws, two of the staunchest pro-American wrestlers on the face of the earth.

Except that now they're having another falling out, and their pro-American views are being closely scrutinized by one another.

After Magnum T.A.'s near-fatal automobile accident, Nikita Koloff risked the wrath of his Uncle Ivan and his country by joining forces with Rhodes and dedicating his career to his former rival Magnum. When The Superpowers—Dusty and Nikita—formed, Dick Murdoch was crushed. He had thought that with Magnum unable to wrestle, he and Dusty would reform The Outlaws. His buddy was teaming with a Russian, and he was outraged. But he kept quiet about it.

He couldn't remain quiet for long.

When Dusty, Nikita, and Murdoch teamed up to face Ivan Koloff, Vladimir Petrov, and Big Red Machine, everyone thought Murdoch had been welcomed into The Superpowers' fold. After the match, however, Murdoch attacked Nikita from behind, and a four-on-one developed.

Murdoch's purpose became clear: If Dusty was going to turn his back on America and team with a Russian, Murdoch was going to turn his back on Dusty, do the same, and do everything in his power to destroy The Superpowers.

The lines are drawn: Dusty and Nikita vs. Murdoch and Ivan and Petrov. It's bound to be an ugly war, and *Inside Wrestling* welcomed the opportunity to have Rhodes and Murdoch discuss it . . . "One on One."

DICK MURDOCH:

Dusty Rhodes, you're about to learn what happens when you turn your back on the United States of America. You can say what you want, but I only know what I see and you're teaming with a communist.

DUSTY RHODES:

Woah! Listen up here, Dickie Murdoch, you know that The American Dream is, above all, an American dream, you hear what I'm saying? Nikita Koloff, he's seen the light, daddy, he knows what America is all about, and he's made his choice. Nikita is Russian-born, but he was born again, daddy, born again in the U.S.A., and you're teaming now with a lying, stinking, back-stabbing, egg-sucking, son of a dog like Ivan Koloff, and *that's* what turning your back on America is about, daddy.

DM: You've been brainwashed, Rhodes? Nikita Koloff is a Russian and he got red blood 'runnin' through his entire body. You're either born in America or you're

N ONE



"You can say all you want, but I only know what I see and you're teaming with a communist."

—Dick Murdoch

not and it looks to me like you and Nikita Koloff don't know where you come from. Say what you want about Ivan Koloff, boy, but at least he don't lie about where he's at.

DR: Sounds to me like the brainwashing been done by Ivan, and you been hung out to dry, my man. You know where he's at. He's anti-American scum, plain and simple. Why you think he's got so much hatred for Nikita? Because Nikita realized what Russia is all about, and that burns Ivan more than any bionic elbow could.

DM: You got yourself convinced 'bout this, don't you Rhodes? All I know is that you call yourself an American, and together we went ahead and defended this country.

The real Dusty Rhodes knew a commie when he saw one and would have sent 12 rounds of buckshot through his head before he befriended him. Know what I think, buddy? I think Magnum's accident made you lose your mind.

DR: Then tell me this, my man, if you're so all fired up against me teaming with a pro-American Russian. Why is it that you're teaming up with an anti-American Russian commie scum like Ivan?

DM: Dusty Rhodes, Dusty Rhodes, you're just not getting the point. I'm teaming with Ivan 'cause it's the easiest way to get at your hide and maybe knock some sense into that thick head of yours. You disappointed me and you disappointed your country. Don't you

tell me about teaming with the Russians when you did it first.

DR: You didn't answer my question, Dickie Murdoch, you be teaming with anti-American scum Russian, while Nikita is embracing America and all it stands for. Who's the commie dupe, Dickie? You tell me.

DM: I'm no dupe and you're just a dope, Rhodes. You just can't tell when somebody's pulling the wool over your eyes. Nikita Koloff never embraced America. You go and show me where he ever had anything good to say about this country or anything bad to say about the reds. He's the same old Russian he always was. And don't go calling me Dickie like I'm your best friend. We're on opposite sides now and don't you ever forget it.

DR: All right, my man, you don't wanna answer the question, the people'll judge for themselves what you're all about. All I'm saying is this is a different time, this ain't Florida in the '70s, this is America in the '80s, and The Dream be walking tall and kicking butt, and if you decide you want to have your butt kicked, that's your own business, but I do promise you, and you can take this to the bank, jack, that your butt *will* be kicked, and kicked hard, so hard that you'll be choking on my bootlaces, jack!

DM: You just don't know what's going on, do you Rhodes? I really do think you had your mind messed up! You might remember, boy, that it was me that was doing the kicking and your butt that was getting a well-deserved kicking. You're all talk, Rhodes, but this time you're gettin' carried away. What you mean this ain't Florida in the '70s, this is America in the '80s. What the hell you talkin' 'bout? I don't care what time this is, you sided with a commie and you're gonna pay! □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

I suggest that you do an article on Kendall Windham (former holder of the Florida title) in the upcoming issue of *Inside Wrestling*. I think he deserves his due respect as a fine athlete.

I just recently started seeing articles on Kendall's brother, Barry. Is it because he left Florida and went to the World Championship area? There seems to be more publicity to the wrestlers in that area, the UWF, and the WWF than toward the wrestlers from Florida. I think the wrestlers from Florida should get their due respect. Sure, Lex Luger has received his publicity, and he definitely deserves it. But what about the three rookies that recently arrived in Florida? I'm referring to Ron Simmons, Dewey Forte, and The Falcon. These fine athletes have also proved themselves time and time again.

I sincerely hope that this letter will encourage the editors to publish articles on the Florida wrestlers, especially Kendall Windham. I think he's the greatest.

TERRI BRADSHAW
Pelham, GA

PRAYERS FOR MAGNUM

When I heard about the tragic accident that Magnum T.A. had, I just sat



Magnum T.A. has the determination to return to the ring someday, in Brenda Tasker's view.

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down and cried. It is a tragic thing when someone like Magnum is struck down in his youth. I feel that God has brought Magnum back to all of his fans. I know that one day we will all see Magnum back in the ring to stay. I know that he has the dedication to make it again.

BRENDA TASKER
Mt. Nebo, WV

NIKITA IS A GREAT MAN

I would like to thank Craig Peters for his article about Nikita Koloff in his "On the Road" column (March 1987). Nikita has shown that he is sin-



Not only have Nikita Koloff and Dusty Rhodes proven they're a great team, but Nikita has shown that he is an honorable and loyal man, writes Marylinne Montesano.

cere and a man of his word many times to Dusty Rhodes and his fans. I, for one, want to say welcome to America to Nikita. I would gladly stand in line to get tickets and meet him when he comes to Miami.

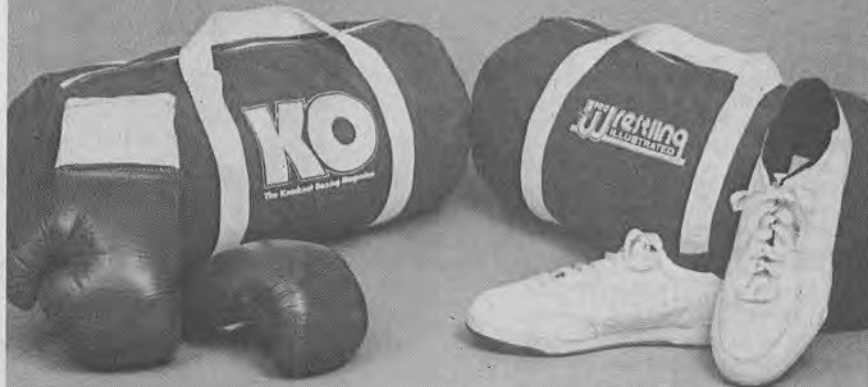
MARYLINNE MONTESANO
Miami, FL

DISAPPOINTED BY ADIAS

An open letter to Brian Adias:

You are a good wrestler, but after
(Continued on page 50)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

the stunt you and Al Madril pulled on Kerry Von Erich, I wouldn't blame the Von Erichs for never forgiving you. I'm sure you know the damage you and Madril could have done to Kerry when you hit him with the crutches on his leg that was injured.

I never thought they would forgive Chris Adams after the stunt he pulled at the Cotton Bowl in 1985. I went back to being an Adams fan after Gino Hernandez died and when Kevin Von Erich and Adams hugged and made up in the middle of the ring.

I watched you when you first started wrestling. Your very first friends were the Von Erichs. Fritz Von Erich helped you in different events in junior high and high school. Then you had the gall to tell Kerry on TV that you used him.

Madril had no right to tear the painting of the Von Erichs before Christmas. Someone, somewhere worked really hard on a painting that the Von Erichs were going to give their



Brian Adias should apologize to the Von Erichs for all he's done over the past six months, writes Kym Grenvall, who used to be one of his fans.

mom for Christmas, and Madril tore it up.

Brian, I hope one day you'll come to your senses and apologize to the Von Erchs for the way you've been acting lately. Maybe they would accept your apology. I know I probably wouldn't, but it's worth a shot.

KYM GRENVALL
Arlington, TX

ELLERING WAS WRONG

I am writing about the story "Paul Ellering: 'I'm Disappointed in the Fans!'" (April 1987). I was very hurt by this story. Ellering was putting a lot of the blame on The Road Warriors' fans. He blamed the fans for not vot-



Paul Ellering should not blame the fans for The Road Warriors' problems, in the opinion of Andrew Ruffner. He believes the Warriors must return to their old ways.

ing the Warriors Tag Team of the Year, but he and the Warriors had a lot to do with that.

When they went to the NWA, they teamed with a man who tried to stop them, Dusty Rhodes. He helped kill the Warriors' killer instinct. The Warriors would have been ruling the NWA with The Four Horsemen where they belong, at the top of the world.

Another thing is the NWA tag team belts. The Warriors would not even fight The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the title. I know the Warriors could beat any tag team in the world today. This is another reason why I'm mad at them.

The Warriors need to go back to their old ways. They should team with the Horsemen.

ANDREW RUFFNER
Baltimore ☐

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 20)



No one should be surprised that yet another ally has turned on Dusty Rhodes, writes Ellner. This time it was Dick Murdoch, who became angry when Dusty teamed with Nikita Koloff.

Petrov, and The Red Menace (whatever that is). Predictably, Murdoch turns on the Fat One and issues a beating to Rhodes and Mr. America(?) Nikita Koloff.

The horror and dismay portrayed by Dusty will no doubt endear him further to his legion of horrible fans. Do you not understand this man has made a career out of courting fan sympathy? It seems every year there is another close friend who betrays him, another alliance gone sour. Read between the lines, sports fans. Dusty buys friendships with his fat pocketbook, then, his company—despite the steady cash flow—becomes so repulsive, even the most mercenary wrestlers find it necessary to betray him. He's like the rich wife every man courts, only to discover she has B.O., a mustache, and belches in public. Murder then becomes the only alternative. I wish someone would pull it off already.

SPORT SHORT

Dear Ellner,

I would imagine there are more pressing issues in the world of

wrestling for you to concentrate on than to devote a column to that bumbling half-pint, The Haiti Midget. Unless you don't mind being the laughing stock of wrestling journalism.

Dear Eddie Ellner,

Freaks are for the zoo. So put The Haiti Kid in the monkey cage and concentrate on wrestling.

Dear Ellner,

You're a half-wit, ergo, it's only appropriate you write about a half-pint.

Dear Eddie,

My little girl's turtle died recently and I'm in the market for a new pet. Would you have an address for The Haiti Kid?

I'm overworked, but I'm not too tired to let an opportunity slip through my fingers. Your lack of courtesy, your barbarity, and total bankruptcy of morals were most striking in the months following my column last year on The Haiti Kid. I admit I opened the mail with a hint of trepidation, then, as the correspondence grew more morose, with indefinable dread and contempt.

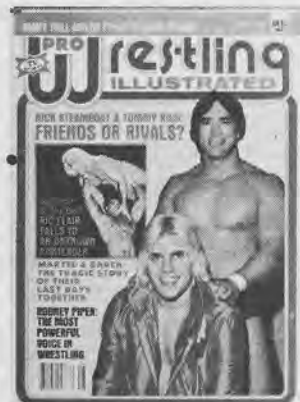
You filthy pigs. You pitiless, impoverished, imbecilic morons. To spit on a man inflicted, a gentle handicapped soul attempting, as you do every day of your despicable lives, to carve out a living and reputation. But what can you expect from Rock 'n' Roll Express worshippers ... from fans who covet Dusty Rhodes' boots ... from Hulk Hogan jockstrap kissers. The Haiti Kid was good enough to participate in WrestleMania III. He is revered in his native country, while you guys are regularly booted from the neighborhood bar. Perhaps now he has earned a measure of respect. □

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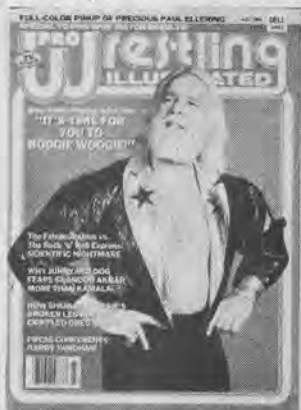
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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

take a fresh approach to the remaining four frames. Prison was the sixth frame in Adams' life. After getting drunk while on a commercial airline, headbutting a flight attendant for refusing to serve him more alcohol, and not remembering the incident, his self-esteem couldn't have sunk too much lower.

Of course he did not want to go to prison, but he went in with the outlook that he would use this time to get his life straightened out. He would come out a better man and never look back again.

"I needed the time to get my head together," he said. "So much had gone on in my life in such a short period. The feud with the Von Erichs. My ill-fated relationship with Gary Hart. Teaming with Gino Hernandez. Being blinded by Gino. Gino's death. My move to the UWF. Then the incident on the plane. I had a lot of sorting out to do. And now I had time to do it."

Not only did Adams right himself mentally, but he did so physically as well. His body had softened considerably following the blinding incident. He had been wrestling, but he was not pleased with the shape he was in. Presently, he is in the best condition of his life. "Let's face it," he says, smiling, "there isn't a heck of a lot to do in jail. So I just started working out like crazy. Some of the guys knew who I was and started working out along with me. They lifted, but they didn't really know what they were doing. So I volunteered to teach a weightlifting class. So many people were interested that I wound up teaching two weightlifting classes a day. I began working out like four hours a day in prison and I've pretty much kept it up. My body fat content went down 10 percent and my strength in-



Chris Adams is congratulated by Chavo Guerrero as Terry Taylor is hugged by Sam Houston after Adams and Taylor win the UWF tag team tournament.

creased 20 percent."

Most important, though, his confidence was up 100 percent. His only concern upon leaving prison was how much public reaction would affect his psyche. He had entered the UWF as a fan favorite and had vowed to stay that way for the rest of his career. But he realized now that he was going to take some heat from certain fans. "Actually," he says, "it's been much better than I suspected. I made a mistake and I paid my debt. Most of the fans are willing to accept that; the others I could do without."

At the time of his trial last September, many people felt that Adams would receive a suspended sentence or get off with a fine and community service. But U.S. District Judge Eldon B. Mahon ended that speculation when he told Adams, "You have to be punished. The world has to know that Chris Adams, a star, is not above the law."

"Looking back," Adams admits,

"it probably would have been worse if I had gotten off. It's important that people know that if you do wrong, you're going to be punished. And that same standard applies to everyone, athletes included."

For sure, we don't have to worry about Adams being a repeat offender. He has sworn off drinking (he considered swearing off flying!) and he has his priorities in order. He has reconciled with everyone he hurt during his foray into rulebreaking and he is no longer bitter about the incidents of a year ago. He disregards speculation that he and Terry Taylor are not getting along and could lose their tag team title at any time, because at this point it doesn't really matter. With or without a title, he is headed in the right direction. Having his life taken out of his control—by a greedy manager, blindness, and incarceration—makes one realize how important that control is and how much one appreciates it when one has it. Chris Adams is a stronger man today than he ever was. □

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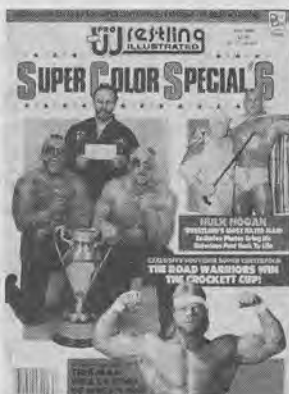
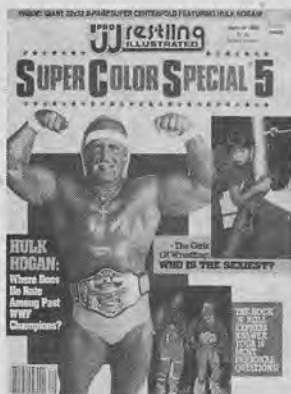
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NIKITA KOLOFF

(Continued from page 35)

and goes back to his hotel room. Nikita calls room service—caviar and vodka—and sits back to read a book a friendly wrestling fan gave to him.

It's *Dr. Zhivago*. There's no getting away from it. This man is a Russian.

He's also by himself. Nikita might be friends with Dusty Rhodes, but that relationship only serves to magnify how badly things have gone wrong. His uncle, the great Ivan Koloff, no longer speaks to him. His government thinks of him as an enemy. He no longer has contact with his family because the Kremlin will not allow it. And what is Dusty Rhodes? An enemy yesterday, a friend today. Who knows about tomorrow?

Nikita Koloff only has himself.

But he is a man of great determination. He is the U.S. champion, a title he won in a seven-match series against Magnum T.A., the man he now represents in the ring. He is of great strength and ability. Nikita Koloff is considered by many to be the finest wrestler in the world. He cannot be satisfied merely by the accomplishments of he and Rhodes as a tag team. He has a goal—to be NWA World champion.

The Four Horsemen, however, are making things difficult for Nikita. Wrestling Ric Flair one on one is a serious test. But Nikita rarely gets to wrestle Flair one on one. It's usually a four-on-one match, or more specifically, Four Horsemen-on-one. J.J. Dillon, Tully Blanchard, and the Andersons always provide an added obstacle, an overwhelming obstacle.

"They do not play by the rules," says Nikita. "Ric Flair calls himself World champion, but he does not have the guts to wrestle me without having his friends around. If he is real man, he will tell his friends to



The blood flows freely when Nikita wraps his chain around Blanchard's head. The Horsemen present the biggest obstacle to Nikita winning Flair's NWA World title.

stay out of his business. Then I will show him how much better wrestler Nikita is."

Recently, Nikita has been presented with a new problem: a man by the name of Lex Luger. The former Southern champion was named an associate of The Four Horsemen and has astounded fans and wrestlers with his incredible body and awesome wrestling ability. There are few men in wrestling with the physique and power of Nikita Koloff, but Luger measures up in every category.

Thus far, Luger has not been matched against a top wrestler in the World Championship area. He has feasted on preliminary wrestlers while he waits to see where The Four Horsemen will take him. But it really doesn't take much to realize that Luger is an outstanding athlete. These mismatches are entirely useless.

Remember, though, that The Four Horsemen do everything by design. They talk admiringly about Luger but in the long run will find a way to use him for their own purposes. Currently, there are only two serious threats to Flair's cham-

pionship reign—Barry Windham and Nikita Koloff. To get at the belts, both men will have to get past Lex Luger.

"Windham and the Ruskie are dealing with an immovable force," says J.J. Dillon. "The Four Horsemen are a team, and Ric Flair is part of the team. The World championship belongs to all of us. Lex Luger is now an associate of that team. He is now not only wrestling for himself, but for The Four Horsemen. Any attempt to get what The Four Horsemen rightfully own must go through Mr. Luger."

In other words, it's only a matter of time before Luger is sent after Koloff and Windham. The Four Horsemen wait for nobody. And if Koloff is to stave off this threat, he'll have to go after Luger on his own.

"I will destroy The Four Horsemen and send Luger back where he came from," says Koloff. "Then I will expose Flair for the man he really is. He cannot defeat Nikita Koloff on his own. I am still a Russian and I have been taught to be determined. I will accomplish my goals."

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(Continued from page 18)



Mike is interviewed by Mark Lowrance after he injured his shoulder. Von Erich's problems began when he tried to get treatment for the shoulder.

his third visit to the emergency room at Lewisville Memorial Hospital when things got out of hand.

According to the prosecution, Mike became loud, abusive, and started arguing with the emergency room nurse. Shepard stepped out the emergency room door and tried to quiet Von Erich. Mike responded with a blow to the face that knocked out Shepard and cracked two of his teeth.

According to the defense, Mike was in tremendous pain and moaning loudly when Shepard came out and told him to keep quiet. "He said, 'Shut up. I'm going to kick your ass out of here,'" said Mike, who claimed he did not know that Shepard was a doctor. Mike said that Shepard charged at him and pushed him on the injured shoulder. Mike responded with a punch. Simple self-defense.

The jury had no trouble agreeing. But the most noteworthy aspect of the trial was its length. This was a simple misdemeanor assault trial and the possible penalty was relatively small. But testimony went on for seven days and it took 14 hours for the lawyers and judge to agree on how the jury should be instructed prior to its deliberation. Obviously, Mike was intent on clearing his name. And why not?

The lines in professional wrestling are clearly drawn. There are fan favorites and rulebreakers. Few men, other

than the Nick Bockwinkels and Bruiser Brodys, can successfully straddle that line. In a very real way, Mike Von Erich's career was at stake.

What if he had been found guilty? Surely, wrestling fans are a very loyal bunch. It might have taken more than the decision of a six-person jury to change their opinion of Mike. But the Von Erichs are a religious family that believes in following the straight and narrow. They have built their lives around this philosophy. Enemies of the family would have certainly used a guilty verdict to try and bring down the Von Erichs.

And let's not just pat Mike on the back as if to say, "You were right to do what you did, Mike. You did nothing wrong." Self-defense or not, Mike admitted to punching the physician. Professional athletes have a responsibility to control themselves. Perhaps Mike should not have acted so hastily. Many of us have been in similar situations. Did we all react with a punch?

Dwight Gooden, Ron Darling, Tim Lincecum, Bob Ojeda, and Rick Aguilera of the New York Mets learned their lesson about how to act in public. Athletes are always subject to public scrutiny. Jim Neidhart, John Tatum, Chris Adams, and yes, Mike Von Erich, should take heed. Life in the spotlight has its drawbacks, as well as its rewards.

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RODDY PIPER

(Continued from page 37)



I have said before that Mr. Piper is basically a paranoid personality. This is a product of his insecurity—his desire to be popular is outweighed by an uncontrollable feeling that everybody is out to get him. That is why he acts the way he does. That is the reason why he is now so popular with the fans but scarcely acknowledges their cheers.

He has now reached the point where he has swung back and forth between being loved and hated by the wrestling fans several times. In neither capacity has he found happiness. When he was a so-called rulebreaker, he was vilified by the wrestling public and was capable of acting in a very dangerous manner. As a fan favorite, he found that he could not control himself to act like other fan favorites—for example, the incident in which he destroyed "The Flower Shop" set—and, although the fans were behind him, he was unable to draw much interest in his matches against rulebreakers. That was because, down deep, the fans still couldn't think of Mr. Piper as a positive personality.

Now, we come to the matter of Mr. Piper's retirement. I was very intrigued by his comments on *The Late Show* with Joan Rivers. His desire to become popular is most disturbing. Having given up on gaining popularity in the ring, he is now ready to concentrate on movies and television, a field which is, for the most part, foreign to him.

Mr. Piper is on the road to failure.

He will find that he cannot get the immediate gratification in Hollywood that he gets in the wrestling ring. Although Mr. Piper might very well be received favorably by critics and the public, he will never get the chance to hear the cheers or boos of the fans. The reaction to Mr. Piper's performances will always be delayed. I'm not sure he can handle that.

Mr. Piper was near or at the top of his profession as a wrestler. In show business, he will enter near the bottom. Will Mr. Piper properly handle it emotionally if he is not the star of a movie he appears in? How will he react to the other ac-



To the fans' delight, Piper kicks Jim Neidhart (opposite page). He appears in the movie *Bodyslam* with Islander Tama and Dirk Benedict (above). Will Piper make it in Hollywood or return to wrestling?

tors and actresses in a production?

I am sad to say that Mr. Piper is headed for disaster. As I have said, he is a bomb waiting to explode. The slightest thing can set him off. Much is tolerated in professional wrestling. The same cannot be said for Hollywood, in which radical behavior is not brushed aside.

Very shortly, Mr. Piper will discover that he can only quench his desires and needs in the wrestling ring. He might find out that there is not a very great demand for his services in Hollywood. He might find out that he can't deal with people in the real world. Mr. Piper's retirement from wrestling will be short-lived.

I have discussed this matter with my colleagues and many individuals familiar with the Hollywood scene. We have, for the most part, agreed that Piper is a very charismatic individual with tremendous determination. This will work to his advantage. But, in laymen's terms, he is like a fish out of water when not involved in wrestling. It is his life, that's the only place where he can survive. Despite his apparent change from rulebreaker to fan favorite, he has never come to grips with his personality problems.

I predict disaster. I sorely hope that I am wrong. □

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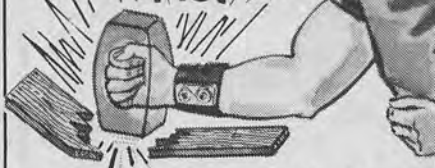
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ADAMS & TAYLOR

(Continued from page 44)



Taylor executes a flying bodypress on Steiner. While Taylor and Adams appear to get along with one another in public, other wrestlers say that they don't enjoy teaming together.

wrestler. "Terry takes his image very seriously—probably too seriously—and I don't think he wanted to be associat-
ed with Adams."

Adams knew that Taylor has gone
through some hard times over the past
10 months. In fact, Adams felt that
Taylor was a jinx and had a black
cloud hovering overhead. Adams, no
lucky man himself, wanted to keep his
distance from Taylor.

"I think that if anything can beat
Chris and Terry, it's Chris and Terry,"
says Sam Houston. "Look at them in
the ring. They're so uncomfortable to-
gether, yet they're two of the best
wrestlers around. I think it's only a
matter of time before things blow up."

Adams and Taylor refuse to discuss
the situation and have managed to
keep a happy front. They publicly
compliment each other and are on
their best behavior in the ring. But
behind the scenes, fellow wrestlers
know that Adams and Taylor have no
great love for one another.

One day, perhaps very shortly, it
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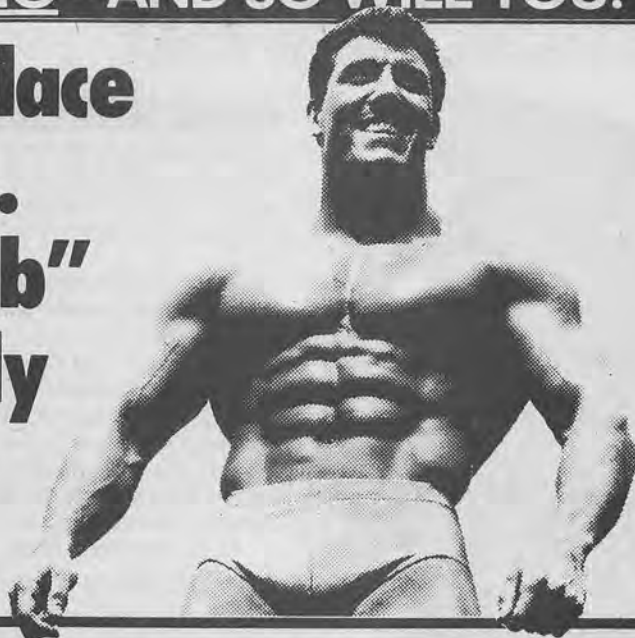
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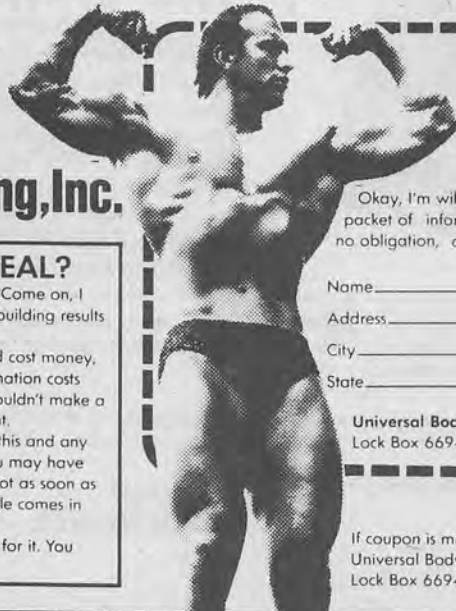
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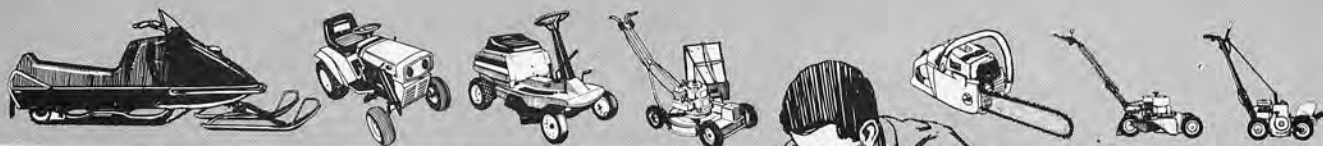
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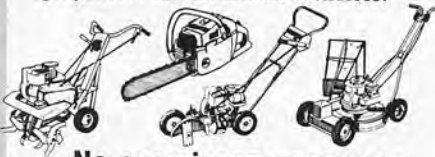
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